

# Libel Blatt



PARENTAL ADVISORY  
**WARNING**  
EXPLICIT CONTENT

ETOROUJI SHIONO





Ü b e l B l a t t

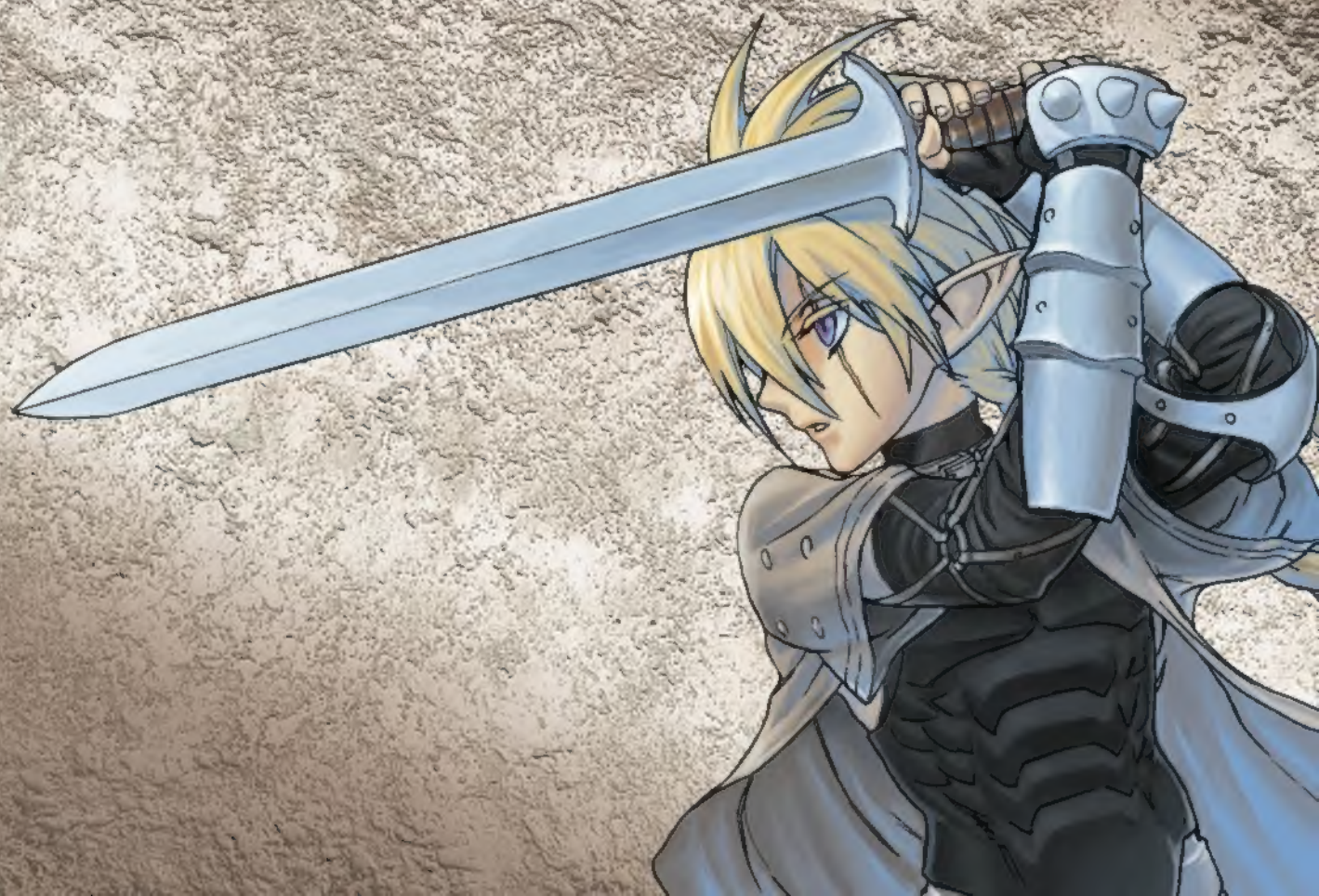
















Brigade

Balgrune

Brigade

Wischtech

Drachengrafschaft  
Lodien

Wuestenland  
Jeb

Mondgrafschaft  
Rogge

Batterleggrafschaft

Lemda

Markgrafschaft  
Gormbark

Kmter

aaalon

Furstentum  
Krahzen

Burggrafschaft  
Zighiid

Landgrafschaft  
Mollan

Namm

lyndo

Asee

Bartschada

Kurfurstentum  
Laakinia

Friigratschaft  
Tabatia

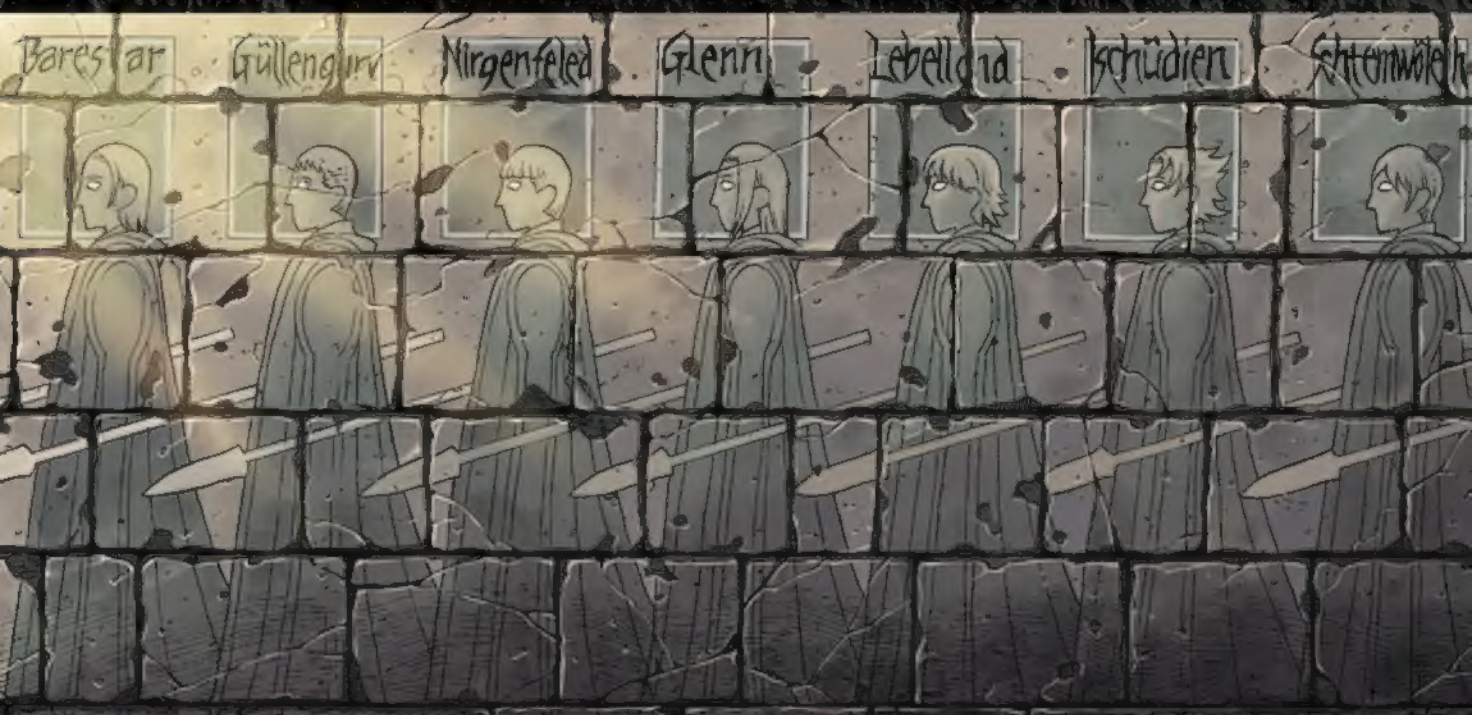
Krehberck

Obslont reich



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Szaalenden,  
the land of  
plenty.

...has begun  
to crumble  
at the hands  
of wicked  
rebels, from  
the border-  
lands.

The  
peace once  
brought  
about by  
the "Seven  
Heroes"  
of yore...

However...

!!GAAAG



Kap.1:  
**Schwarzes Schwert**  
(Black Sword)



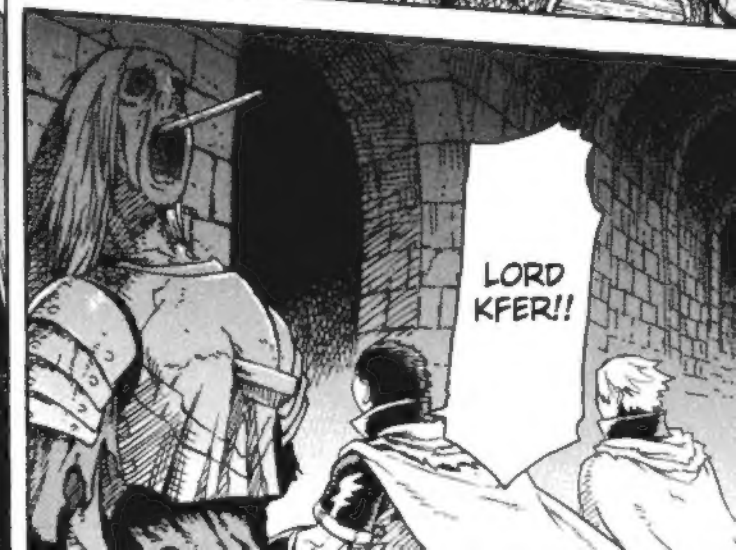
...heralds  
the  
begin-  
ning...

...of an  
age of  
new  
heroes...



...One  
swing  
of this  
blade...









ALL I SAW WAS A GREAT BLACK SWORD.

AND ONE OF OUR MEN, WITH HIS DYING WORDS, DESCRIBED "A MAN WITH A SCAR OVER ONE EYE".....

HIS SPEED WAS UNREAL. FRIGHTENING, EVEN.....

WE WERE UNABLE GET A GOOD LOOK AT HIM...

AH!

AAAH...



AFTER FLEEING FROM A MAN WHO KILLED ONE HUNDRED OF MY SOLDIERS...

THE YOUNG GIRLS?

WHERE IS THE GOLD?

...WELL?  
WHERE ARE THE CASKS OF WINE?

WHAT !?



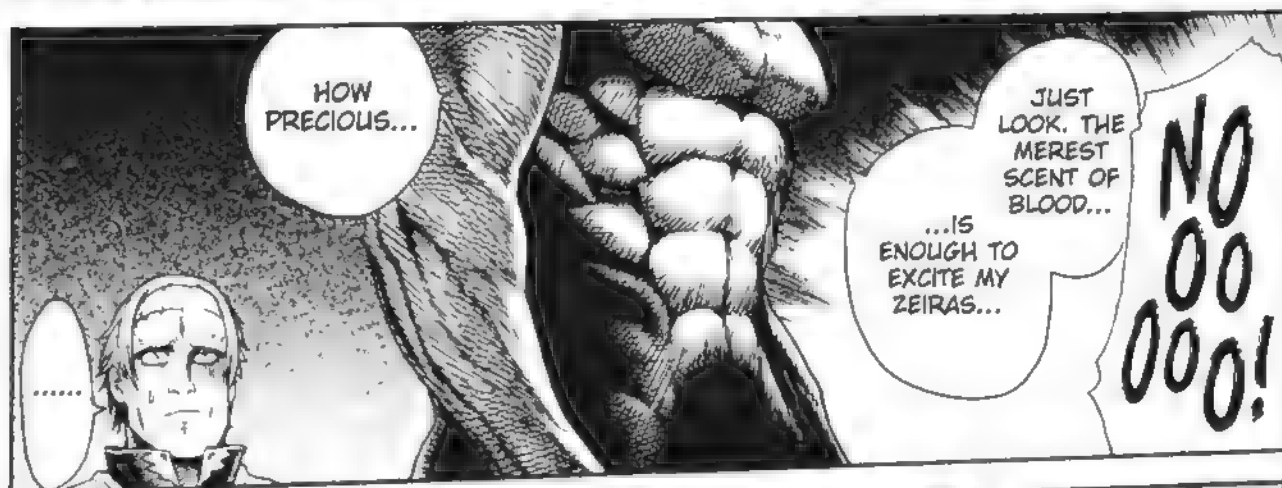
M-MY LORD, I...

...YOU, THE SOLE SURVIVOR, HAD THE NERVE TO RETURN EMPTY-HANDED?













!

YOU! NOT ANOTHER STEP!

THIS BRAT'S EVEN GOT HIMSELF A SWORD.

AND LOOK AT THAT FANCY GETUP. DID YOUR MOMMY DRESS YOU, KID?

S-S-SORRY, YOU GOT THE WRONG GUY! SEE YA!

N...

...NICE WEATHER WE'RE HAVING, ISN'T IT.....?

GUL CRANK

HEY, LET ME SEE YOUR FACE.





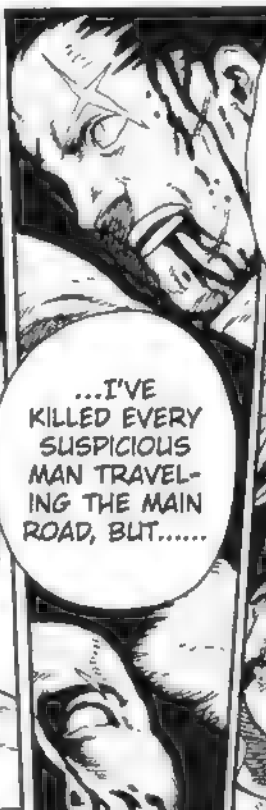
IT'S  
HIM  
....!!



YES...  
QUITE  
RIGHT.

NONE  
OF THESE  
BASTARDS  
COULD  
HAVE DONE  
THAT.

ONE MAN  
STRONG  
ENOUGH TO  
DEFEAT ONE  
HUNDRED?



ONE  
AFTER  
THE OTHER  
...

...I'VE  
KILLED EVERY  
SUSPICIOUS  
MAN TRAVEL-  
ING THE MAIN  
ROAD, BUT.....



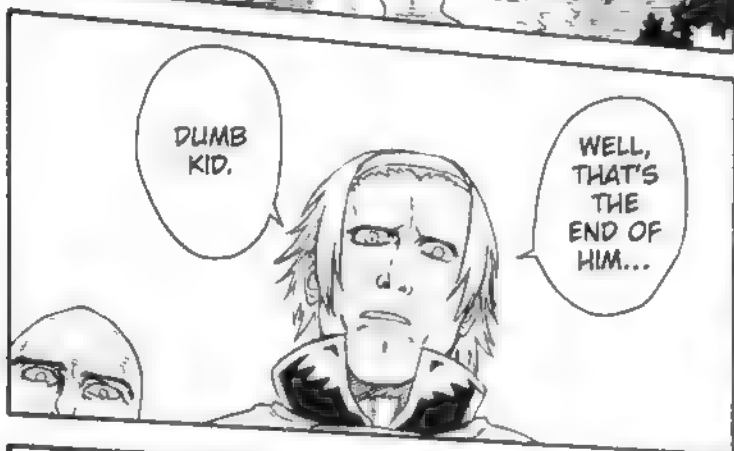
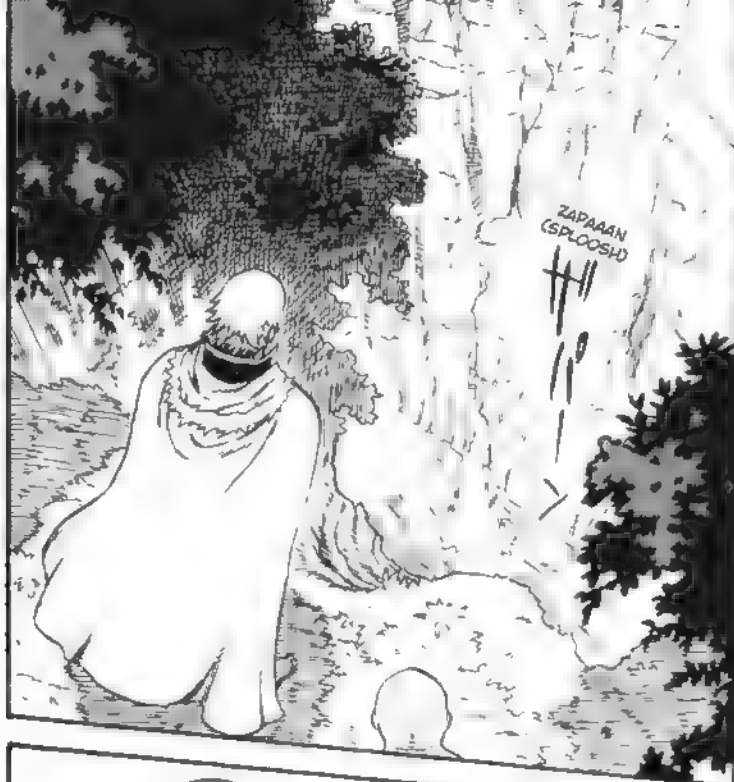
















...the  
emperor  
dispatched  
fourteen  
young  
warriors  
armed  
with holy  
lances.

...in order  
to hold  
off invasion  
from the  
inhabitants of  
neighboring  
Wischtech...

3,968  
years after  
the great  
founder  
was  
entrusted  
with the  
earth by  
the gods...

There was  
a time  
when fierce  
battles were  
waged day  
and night  
against the  
Land of  
Shadows,  
Wischtech.

Seven  
mighty  
warriors  
remained.

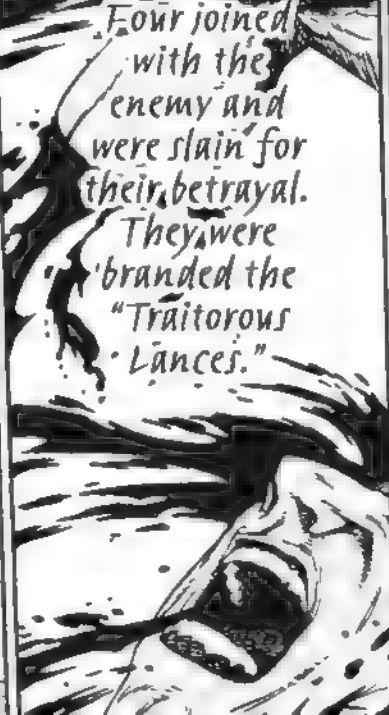
Armed with  
naught but the  
lances and  
their own  
strength, they  
brought peace to  
Szaalenden.

The people  
heralded  
them as the  
"Seven  
Heroes."



Four joined  
with the  
enemy and  
were slain for  
their betrayal.  
They were  
branded the  
"Traitorous  
Lances."

Three  
lost their  
lives on  
the journey  
and came  
to be known  
as the  
"Exalted  
Ones Who  
Did Not  
Return."





Twenty  
years have  
passed—

...began raising  
an army of  
mountain  
bandits in the  
hills surround-  
ing the border  
margravate—  
markgrafschaft—  
of Gormbark.

In 3992 A.D.  
(Anno Donatio),  
the Traitorous  
Lances, thought  
to have been  
slain after their  
betrayal of the  
Emperor...

They rape  
and pillage,  
causing no  
small amount  
of grief for  
the people.

They are  
called "The  
Black-Wing  
Army"  
after their  
banner.

...as well  
as to the  
imperial  
capital,  
Szaalion...

Seeking aid,  
the feudal  
lords of these  
lands dispatched  
envoys to the  
Road of Heroes—  
Heldenstrasse—  
the territories  
ruled by the  
Seven Heroes...





And  
slain.



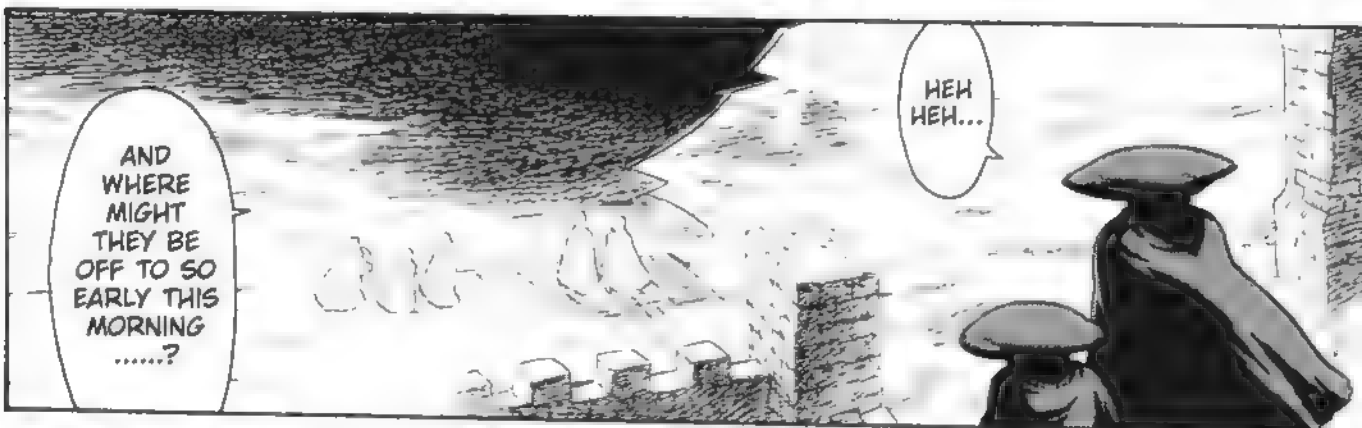
...But every  
one of  
them was  
captured.



...have  
fallen  
into  
despair.

The  
people  
of the  
border-  
lands...





AND  
WHERE  
MIGHT  
THEY BE  
OFF TO SO  
EARLY THIS  
MORNING  
.....?

HEH  
HEH...



WE'VE  
NO  
TIME  
TO  
WASTE  
...



HEH-  
HEH-HEH...  
SO THE  
SEVEN  
HEROES  
ARE ALSO  
ON THE  
MOVE...

...I CAN  
SEE...THE  
CREST...  
OF...  
MARQUIS...  
GLENN...

...THEIR  
SHOULD-  
ERS...



CAN  
YOU  
SEE  
THEM?

THE  
FOG...  
IS...  
THICK...  
BUT...

BOSS  
MURMUR







YES.  
YOU MUST  
KNOW IT  
ELENEI WELL.  
IS THE  
ONE WHO  
PLUCKED  
THE BOY  
FROM THE  
RIVER,  
AFTER ALL.

THIS IS  
THE ROAD  
TO ELENEI'S  
HOUSE,  
ISN'T IT?



CHIEF...  
HOW LONG  
SINCE THE  
BOY WITH THE  
SCAR OVER  
HIS EYE  
APPEARED?

FOUR  
OR FIVE  
DAYS, I'D  
SAY.



Y-YOU  
MEAN, HE'S  
SLEEPING  
IN ELENEI'S  
HOUSE!?

SHE  
AND HER  
BROTHER  
ARE CARING  
FOR HIM.



I-I'M  
NOT—

CALM  
DOWN, YELN.  
IT'S PETTY  
TO BE  
ENVOIOUS OF  
A WOUNDED  
MAN.



ELENEI  
AND THE  
BOY.



AH,  
AND HERE  
THEY ARE.







Y'KNOW,  
AT  
FIRST...

...WE WERE  
SURE YOU  
WERE WITH  
THE BLACK  
WINGS.



YES,  
YOU TWO  
HAVE BEEN  
INCREDIBLY  
KIND TO  
ME...

I OWE  
MY RE-  
COVERY  
TO YOU.



BACK  
WHEN SIS  
FIRST  
FOUND  
YOU...

...YOU  
WERE TOO  
WEAK TO  
LIFT A  
FINGER...



.....



GET BACK  
TO THE  
SHEEP!!!

I-I'M  
GOIN',  
SIS, I'M  
GOIN'!!!

**KROHN!!**



IN OUR  
VILLAGE, A MAN  
WHO SHARES A  
WOMAN'S BOWL  
IS S'DPOSED TO  
TAKE HER TO BED.  
OR ELSE HE'S A  
COWARD.



OH YEAH!  
LAST NIGHT  
YOU ATE  
PORRIDGE  
OUT OF  
SIS'S BOWL,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?

HUH?

YES...



WHAT  
KROHN  
SAID  
EARLIER  
.....

KÖIN-  
ZELL...  
UM...

IT'S...



ALL  
RIGHT.



ONCE  
I'M DONE  
WORKIN',  
I GOTTA  
SHOW YOU  
SOMEPLACE  
COOL,  
KÖINZELL!

OH,  
RIGHT!



GOSHI  
GOSHI  
(WIPE)  
ごしごし



GOKUN  
(GULP)  
ごくん



もぐもぐもぐ  
MOGU MOGU MOGU  
(MUNCH)  
もぐもぐもぐ



HUH?  
!

GHI  
(YANK)  
いっ



THANKS  
FOR THE  
FOOD.

...NOW  
THEN,  
ELENE!



HUH?  
WHAT?

IT...IT'S  
NOTHING!  
NEVER  
MIND.

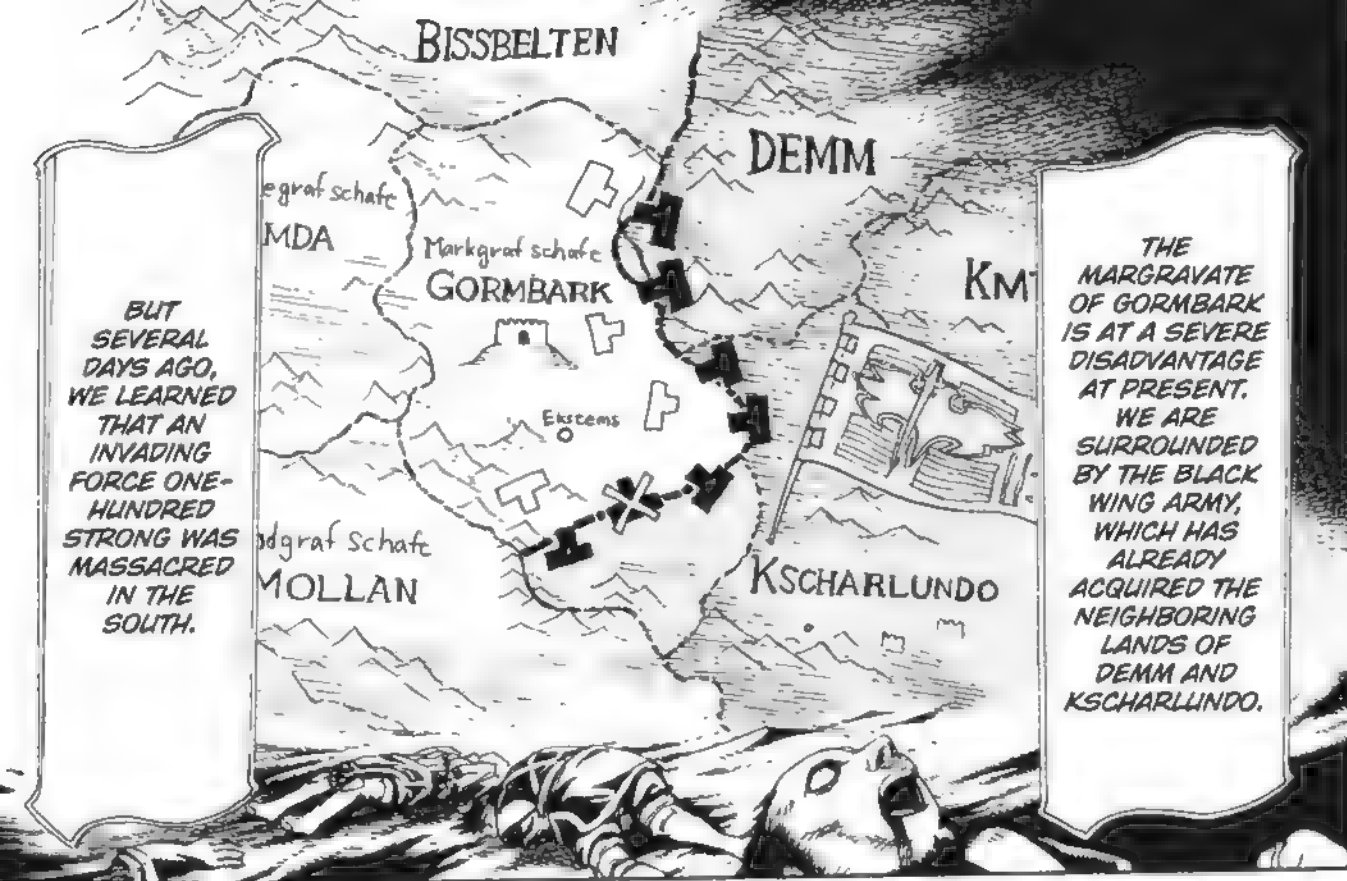












BUT  
SEVERAL  
DAYS AGO,  
WE LEARNED  
THAT AN  
INVADING  
FORCE ONE-  
HUNDRED  
STRONG WAS  
MASSACRED  
IN THE  
SOUTH.

THE  
MARGRAVATE  
OF GORMBARK  
IS AT A SEVERE  
DISADVANTAGE  
AT PRESENT.  
WE ARE  
SURROUNDED  
BY THE BLACK  
WING ARMY,  
WHICH HAS  
ALREADY  
ACQUIRED THE  
NEIGHBORING  
LANDS OF  
DEMM AND  
KSCHARLUNDO.



THE HEAD-  
WATERS OF  
THE RIVER  
YOU FLOATED  
DOWN ARE  
LOCATED IN  
THAT AREA.

SINCE THAT  
DAY, THE BLACK  
WING ARMY HAS  
BEEN SEARCHING  
FOR A MAN WITH  
A SCAR OVER  
ONE EYE!

OHH?

WHAT  
A COIN-  
CIDENCE,  
HUH?



ALMOST  
ALL WERE  
SLAIN BY  
THE SAME  
BLADE!



A SWORD  
WIELDED  
BY SOME-  
ONE WITH  
INCREDIBLE  
SKILL.



...WOW.

THAT'S  
AMAZ-  
ING.





...WE  
NEED  
THE  
POWER  
TO  
HOLD  
THEM  
BACK!!



IF WE  
ARE TO  
HAVE ANY  
HOPE OF  
PROTECTING  
THOSE WHO  
LIVE IN THE  
BORDER-  
LANDS...



DON'T  
DENY  
IT!!

THE  
MARGRAVE  
REFUSES TO  
ACT, SO WE  
ARE IN DIRE  
NEED OF A  
WARRIOR  
WITH YOUR  
STRENGTH!!



DA  
HI!

PAN  
(SLAP)

HOW  
DARE  
YOU  
!!?



NORMALLY  
WE WOULD  
NEVER STOOP  
TO ASKING  
ONE OF  
YOUR KIND...  
SOME FILTHY  
MIXED-RACE  
MUTT...!!

YOU  
DON'T  
GET  
IT, DO  
YOU!!?

YELN  
!!

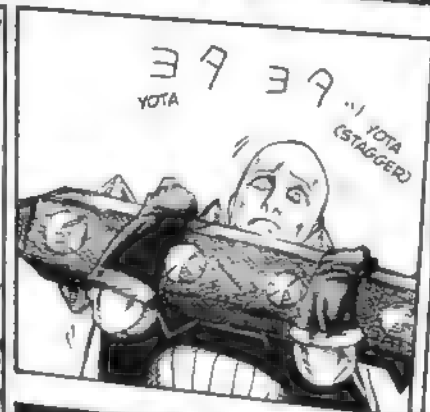


...I'M  
SORRY  
FOR  
YOUR  
TROU-  
BLES...  
...BUT  
I'VE GOT  
MY OWN  
REASONS  
FOR  
TRAVELING...

I DON'T  
HAVE TIME  
TO GET  
TANGLED  
UP IN SOME  
PRIVATE  
ARMY'S  
MESS.









AGAAAH!!!

GASU  
GURUNGO

HOW  
DARE YOU  
WOUND MY  
ZEIRAS!!!?



YOU  
FOOL  
...

EE!  
I-I'M...  
I'M SO  
SORRY...



DON'T  
GET  
CARE-  
LESS  
NOW,  
MEN!!

MOVE  
OUT!!



DO  
(STOMP)



W H O A !

ZUSHAA  
(SLAM)





...IT WAS  
CARVED BY ONE  
OF THE SEVEN  
HEROES' HOLY  
SPEARS!



HEE-HEE-  
HEE! WELL,  
YOU SEE,  
KÖINZELL...

...WHAT  
IS IT?



THIS  
IS IT,  
KÖIN-  
ZELL!



IT MUST'VE  
BEEN DIVINE  
PROTECTION  
FROM THE SEVEN  
HEROES THAT  
BROUGHT YOU  
HERE, KÖINZELL...

ISN'T  
THAT  
AMAZ-  
ING!?



KÖINZELL?

.....

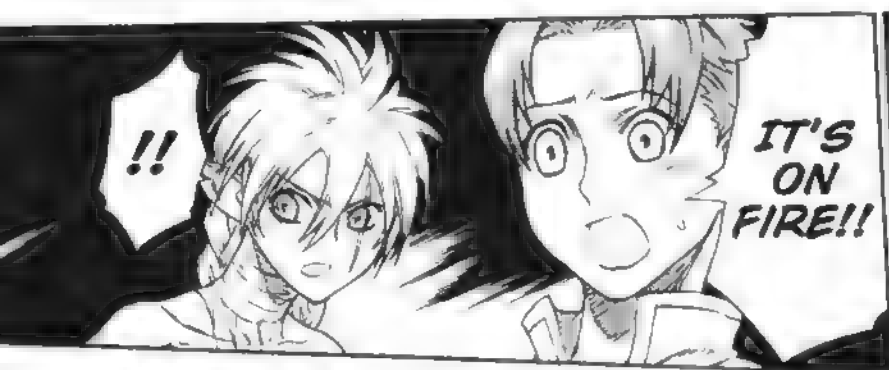


IT  
HAPPENED  
TWENTY  
YEARS AGO  
WHEN THE  
HEROES  
FOUGHT A  
MONSTER  
HERE.

EVEN  
NOW IT  
GLOWS A  
LITTLE AT  
NIGHT.



IT'S JUST THAT...









OR  
ARE  
YOU TOO  
FRIGHT-  
ENED!?



THE  
GREAT  
LORD  
KFER OF  
THE TRAI-  
TOROUS  
LANCES  
HAS COME  
FOR YOU!!

WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER!!?  
SHOW  
YOURSELF,  
MR. EYE-  
SCAR!!



KFER  
!!

...!









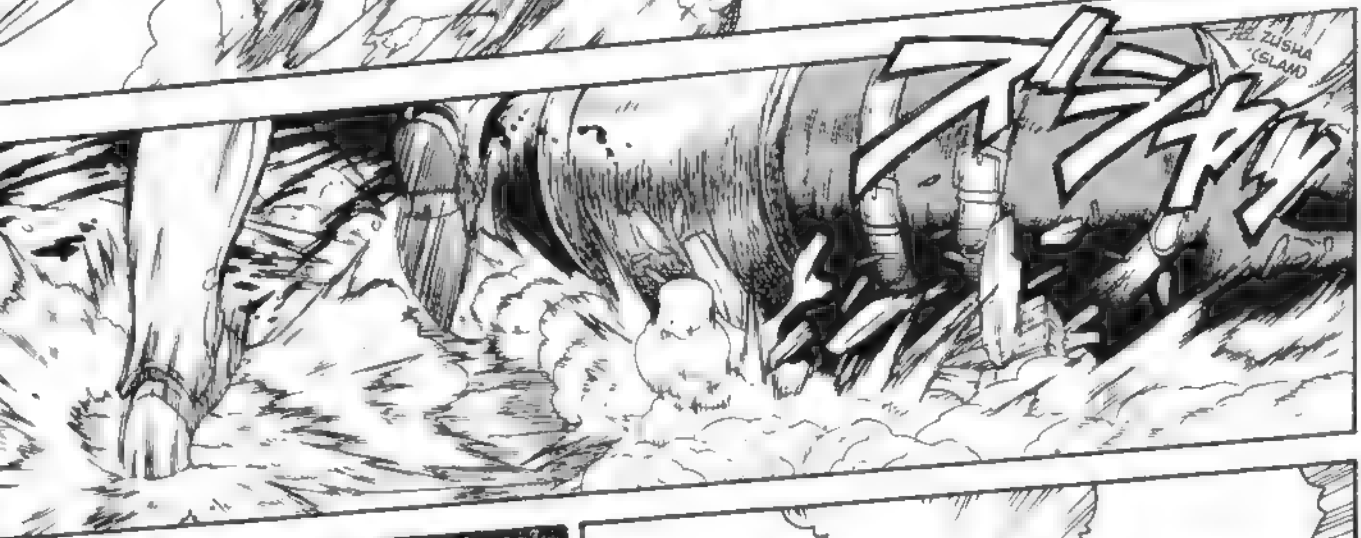














A  
SCARRED  
LEFT  
EYE...  
IT'S HIM  
....!!

THE KID  
FROM  
BEFORE  
....!!?



AH...

AH...

MY  
ZEIRA-  
AAS!!!

AAA-  
AAAA-  
AAAA-  
AAH!!







BAKI  
(CRACKLED)

BAKI

BAKI



YOU'RE  
ALL  
IN MY  
WAY!!







THIS  
IS...

...THE  
BLACK  
BLADE  
!!!

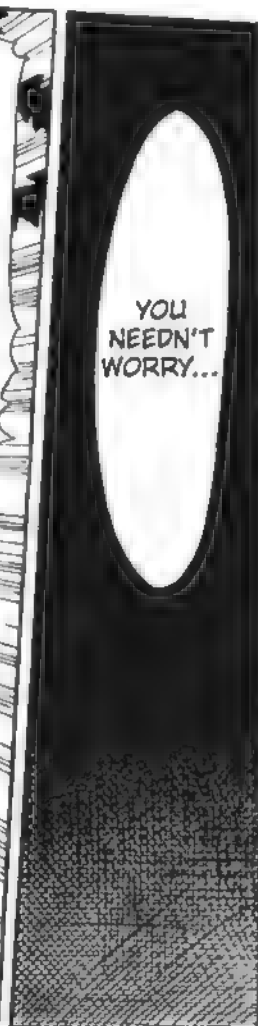
mmmm  
!!!















**YOU'LL  
HAVE  
OPPORTU-  
NITY TO  
TRY THAT  
TRICK  
AGAIN  
SOON  
ENOUGH  
!!!**

**D...  
DON'T  
GET  
COCKY  
!!!**

**WE TRAI-  
TOROUS  
LANCES  
RETURNED  
FROM  
HELL  
ITSELF  
!!!**

DA  
(DASH)





YOU  
REALLY  
WANT  
TO  
KNOW  
?







PLEASE

.....

DON'T

.....











THE  
KSCHAR-  
LUNDI-  
ANS...

LOOK AT  
THEM...

*Pelitelrundo Region,  
South Gormbark*

CAN  
WE  
TRUST  
THEM?

IF  
ONLY THE  
MARGRAVE  
HAD ACTED,  
WE'D HAVE  
NO NEED OF  
THEM...

THAT WE  
HAVE TO  
RELY ON  
THESE  
SAVAGES'  
HELP IS A  
DISGRACE...

LEAVE  
THEM  
BE!!

LORD  
AHT,  
SHOULD  
WE...?

THAT'S  
THE  
BLACK  
WING  
ARMY'S  
...

HEY,  
LOOK  
!!

THAT'S  
WHY  
WE MUST  
WIN THIS  
BATTLE  
AT ANY  
COST...

IF WE  
KILL OFF  
THE LAST  
REM-  
NANTS  
OF  
KFER'S  
MEN...  
...AND  
JOIN OUR  
STRENGTH  
TO THE  
"WIELDER OF  
THE BLACK  
SWORD" WHO  
DEFEATED  
HIM.....

...THE  
REGIONAL  
LORDS WILL  
HAVE TO  
RESPECT  
US!!

!?



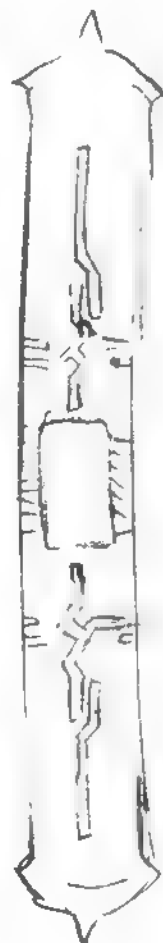
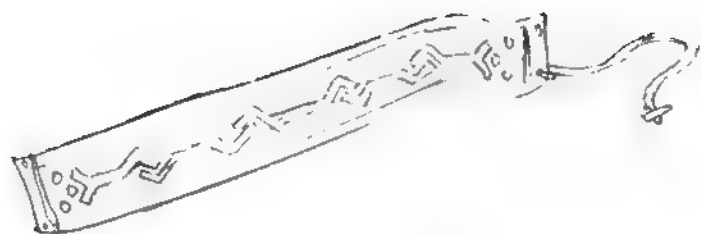
Kap.2:  
**Der Blatt der Lüge**  
**(Blade of Lies)**

TO BE SO  
CONFIDENT  
AFTER  
MERELY  
BESTING  
KFER.

HEH  
HEH  
...

WHAT A  
FOOL...















I ONLY GRANT MERCY TO...

EE!



GAAH!



I SURRENDER!!  
PLEASE, SPARE MY L—

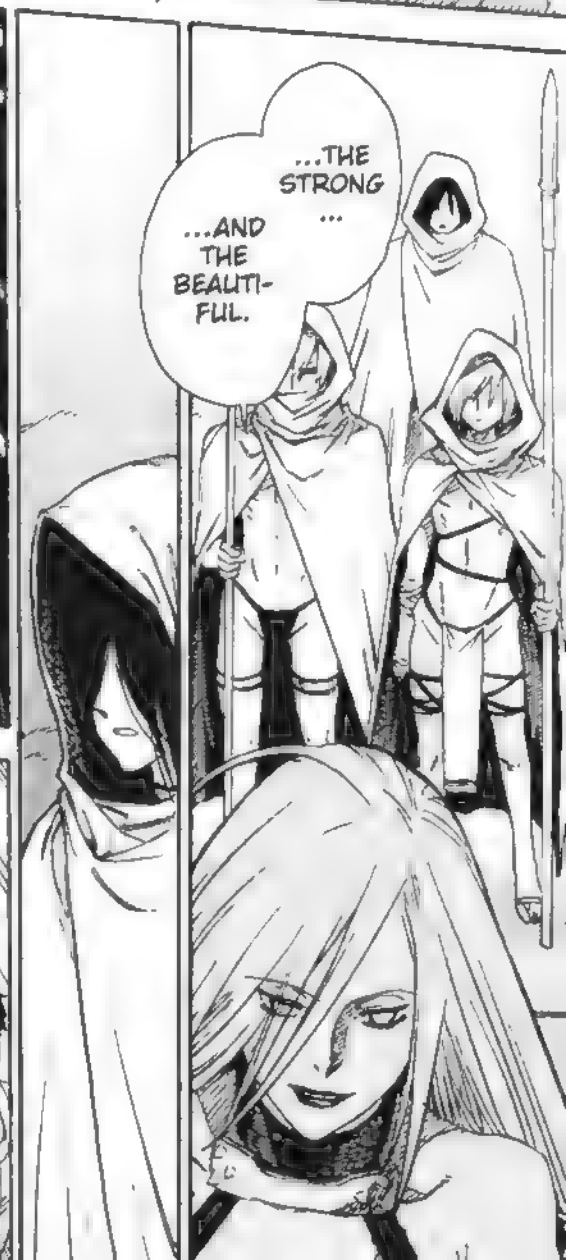


BACH! (CRACKLE)

NOW, TURN TO ASH AND SCATTER...



AAAGH!!!



...THE STRONG ...  
...AND THE BEAUTIFUL.





L-LORD  
AHT!!!

I AM  
AHT OF  
KSCHAR-  
LUNDO!



AND  
YOU  
WILL  
TASTE  
MY  
BLADE  
!!!



GA  
(CLANG)



TCH...

THIS  
GUY  
...!?





HE WAS  
QUITE A  
HANDFUL  
WHEN I  
PLUCKED  
HIM FROM  
THE BATTLE-  
FIELD.....

HIS  
MIND JUST  
NEEDED  
SOME  
TWEAKING  
TO MAKE  
HIM AN  
OBEDIENT  
LITTLE  
BOY...



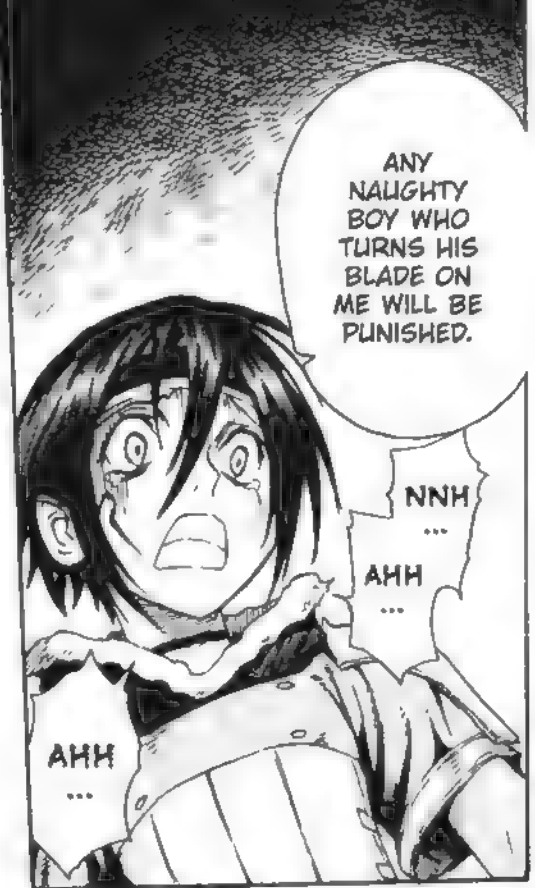
YOUR  
BROTHER  
HAPPENS  
TO BE MY  
FAVORITE  
AT THE  
MOMENT.

HEH  
HEH  
...

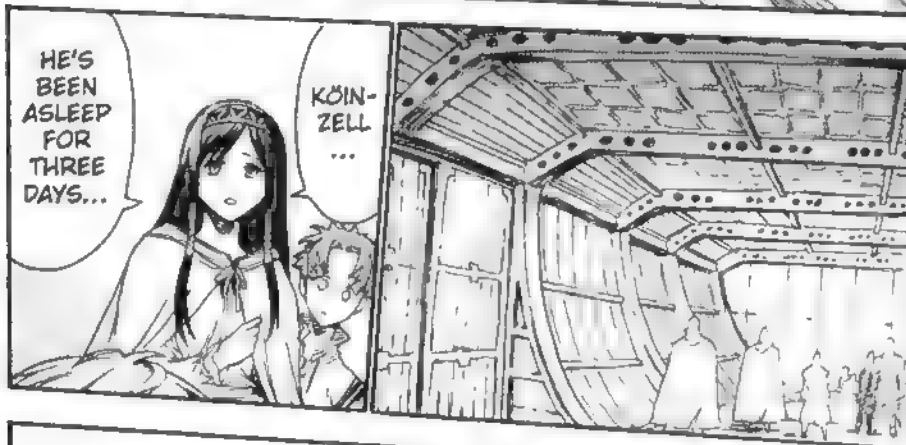
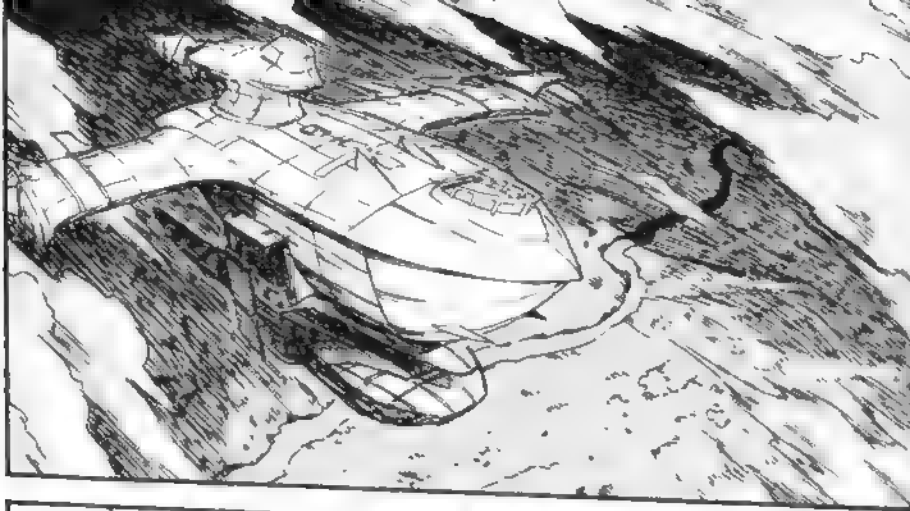
OH-HO...  
COME TO  
THINK OF  
IT, THIS  
ONE WAS  
ALSO ONCE  
A KSCHAR-  
LUNDIAN...



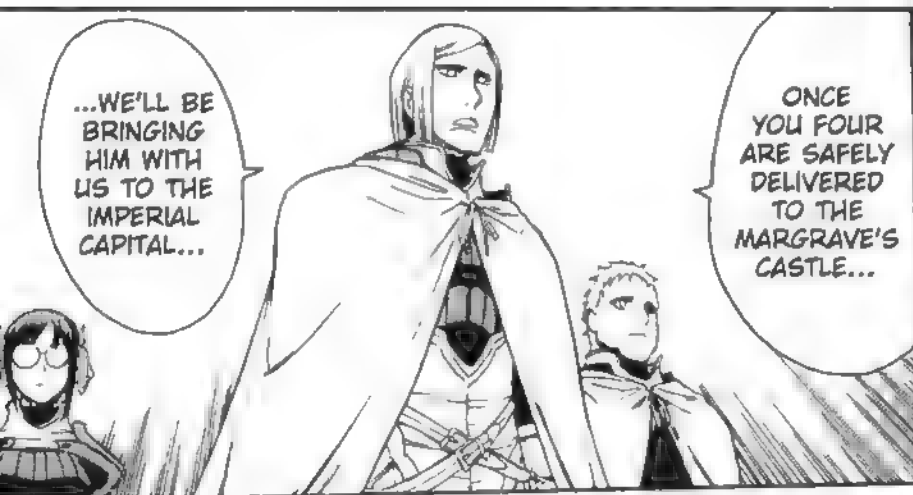
SOMEONE... ANYONE...





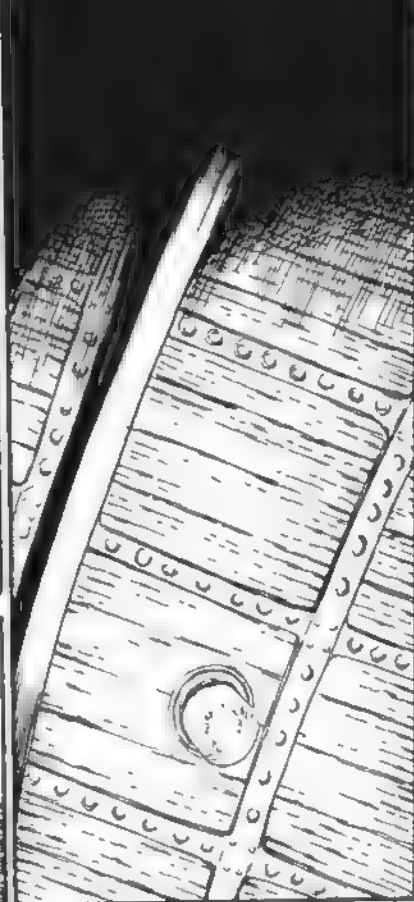


...WAKE  
US  
FROM  
THIS  
NIGHT-  
MARE  
...!!!



...WE'LL BE  
BRINGING  
HIM WITH  
US TO THE  
IMPERIAL  
CAPITAL...

ONCE  
YOU FOUR  
ARE SAFELY  
DELIVERED  
TO THE  
MARGRAVE'S  
CASTLE...



I CANNOT  
AGREE  
TO THAT!!



...WITHOUT  
OFFERING  
SO MUCH  
AS AN  
EXPLANA-  
TION!!?

AND YOU  
ENVOYS OF  
MARQUIS  
GLENN ARE  
REALLY  
GOING TO  
TAKE HIM  
FROM  
US...

...AND AFTER  
YEARS OF  
SUFFERING AT  
THE HANDS OF  
REBELS ALONG  
OUR BORDERS,  
WE'VE FINALLY  
FOUND A TRUMP  
CARD IN THIS  
BOY...

WE  
HAVE  
ALWAYS  
BEEN  
LOYAL  
TO THE  
EMPIRE...



...WHAT I  
CAN TELL  
YOU IS  
THIS...

...ONE THAT  
THE WHOLE  
EMPIRE WILL  
SOON COME  
TO UNDER-  
STAND.

THE  
REASON  
IS ONE  
THAT YOU—  
... NO ...



COULD  
IT BE...  
COULD  
THAT  
REALLY  
BE KÖIN-  
ZELL  
...!?

...WHO  
WILL  
APPEAR  
IN THE  
BORDER-  
LANDS...

THE ONE  
WHO WILL  
SAVE THE  
KINGDOM  
IS A "NEW  
HERO"...



ABOUT  
A  
MONTH  
AGO...

...MONDEN-  
BÖRGEN'S  
ASTROLOGER  
RELAYED A  
WORRYING  
PROPHECY  
TO THE  
EMPEROR  
AND THE  
SEVEN  
HEROES.



SIR ROZEN,  
CAN WE  
REALLY...

...DI-  
VULGE  
SO  
MUCH  
...?

SO  
WE BE-  
LIEVE  
...



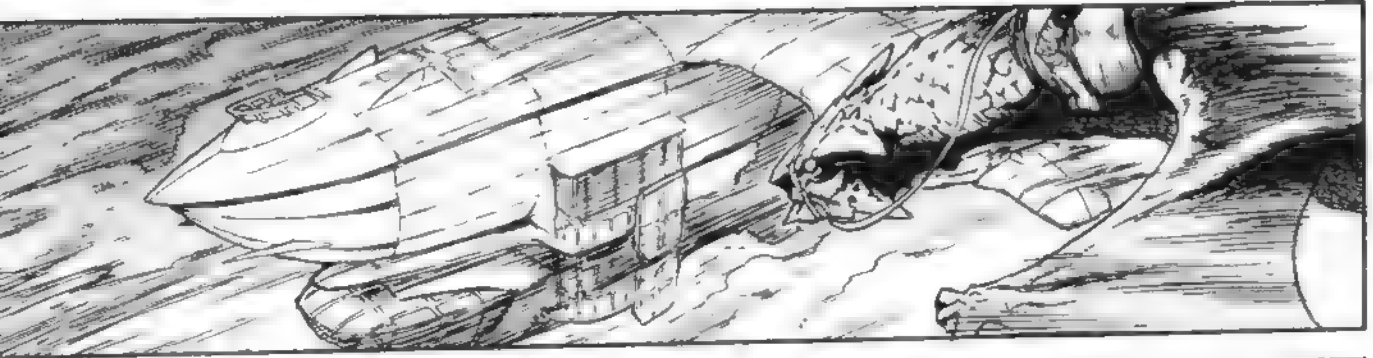
IT  
HARDLY  
MATTERS.

THEY  
INEVITABLY  
WILL BE  
DRAGGED  
INTO THE  
BATTLE  
TOO.

...THAT  
THESE  
TROUBLES  
AT THE  
BORDER  
WILL SOON  
AFFECT  
THE  
ENTIRE  
EMPIRE...

...AND  
THAT THEY  
HERALD  
A FAR  
GREATER  
CALAMITY.







WHAT'S  
WRONG  
!?



.....



THAT  
MAKES  
HIM AN  
ALLY.....  
RIGHT?



THUN-  
DER  
CHARMS  
!!!

SCHEM-  
LEI!!

YES!!

KRENTZ,  
MY  
BOW!!



I'M  
SOR-  
RY.



BA  
(BANG)

BA

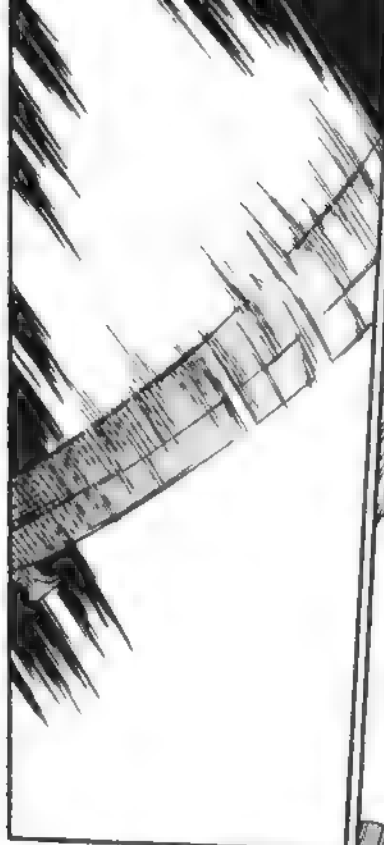
BA











WE'LL  
SHOW  
THEM  
WHAT  
HAPPENS  
TO TRAI-  
TOROUS  
DOGS!!

LET'S  
TOSS THIS  
ONE'S  
HEAD  
DOWN TO  
KSCHAR-  
LUNDO...



HE'S  
JUST A  
SHAME-  
LESS  
KSCHAR-  
LUNDIAN!



THEY'RE  
BARBARIANS!  
NO SENSE  
OF LAW OR  
HONOR!

AND NOW  
IT LOOKS  
LIKE THEY'VE  
STOOPED TO  
BEING THE  
LAPDOGS OF  
THE BLACK  
WING  
ARMY!



.....A  
FINE  
RULER  
YOU'D  
MAKE.

KÖIN-  
ZELL!!





A  
STUB-  
BORN  
CHILD.



YOU MUST HAVE  
GOTTEN THOSE  
THUNDER CHARMS  
FROM GÜSTAV,  
WHO COMMANDS  
THE POWER OF  
LIGHTNING...

WHAT  
ORDERS  
DID SHE  
GIVE  
YOU?



YOU  
BAS-  
TARD  
...!



WHAT  
...!!?

...IN A FEW  
DAYS' TIME,  
SHE AND THAT  
SINISTER FLYING  
FORTRESS  
WILL BURN.

BE-  
CAUSE  
...



WELL,  
IT MAT-  
TERS  
LITTLE.



...ALL  
SEIZED FROM  
WISCHTECH  
IN THE GREAT  
WAR, TWENTY  
YEARS AGO.

WITH THOSE  
WEAPONS'  
POWER, WE  
CAN CONTROL  
THIS ENTIRE  
REGION.

WITHIN THE  
CASTLE WALLS  
LIES A MASSIVE  
BATTERY OF  
MAGIC-BASED  
ARTILLERY...



...IS  
HEADING  
STRAIGHT  
FOR THE  
MAR-  
GRAVE'S  
CASTLE.

THIS  
AIR-  
SHIP...



FACING  
A FIERY  
ASSAULT  
FROM THOSE  
WEAPONS,  
THAT FLYING  
FORTRESS  
WILL—

NO,  
DON'T!!  
MY  
BROTHER  
IS UP  
THERE...

AND  
WITH THE  
ENVOYS OF  
MARQUIS  
GLENN  
BACKING  
US...

...EVEN  
OUR  
RETICENT  
MARGRAVE  
WILL BE  
MOVED TO  
ACTION.



!!

ARE YOU  
REALLY NO  
BETTER THAN  
THEM.....?



!



WHAT A  
FOOL!

A SINGLE  
KSCHAR-  
LUNDIAN  
LIFE ISN'T  
WORTH  
GIVING  
UP THIS  
OPPORTU-  
NITY...







YOU AGAIN!!

WHOA !!

HANG ON!!



LEAVING SO SOON?

!?



ZURURU (SLIIP)

WAAH!



TAKE IT EASY...

LET'S TALK...

GASHI (GRAB)



OW!

I SAVED YOU! STOP KICKING ME!

WAAAAH!!

GESHI (KICK)

GESHI



!!

...YOU'RE A GIRL...



!

YOU...



I WAS  
SO SURE  
YOU  
WERE A  
BOY.

WHILE  
FIGHTING  
GUSSTAV'S  
FLYING  
DRAGON  
LEGION...

...I  
ENCOUN-  
TERED MY  
BROTHER,  
KRATT.  
WE WERE  
SEPA-  
RATED IN  
BATTLE  
A MONTH  
AGO...

...BUT  
THERE  
HE  
WAS.



...WELL...  
I'LL GLADLY  
RETURN YOUR  
BROTHER...

...BUT  
FIRST



WELL,  
ISN'T  
THAT A  
SHAME



I'M THE  
DAUGHTER  
OF KSCHAR-  
LUNDO'S  
CHIEFTAIN...  
THE THIRD  
PRIN-  
CESS...



WHILE  
I'VE  
BEEN  
DOING  
EVERY-  
THING I  
CAN TO  
FREE MY  
BROTHER...

...OUR  
FORCES  
HAVE  
BEEN  
CRUM-  
BLING.

THEY'RE  
ALL  
DYING!!

THAT'S  
WHY, NO  
MATTER  
WHAT...  
I HAVE TO  
GET HIM  
BACK...!!



...BUT  
DO YOU  
REALLY  
THINK  
SHE'LL  
RETURN  
YOUR  
BROTHER  
TO YOU...?

SO  
THAT'S  
WHY YOU  
CAME  
TO KILL  
ME.

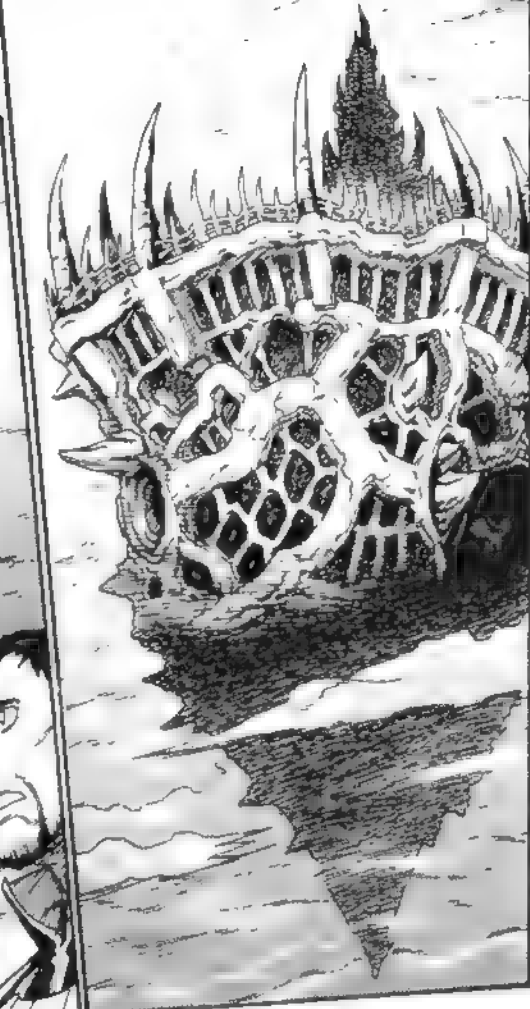


I DON'T  
KNOW...  
BUT...  
BUT...

I  
DON'T  
KNOW!









DA  
(LEAP)

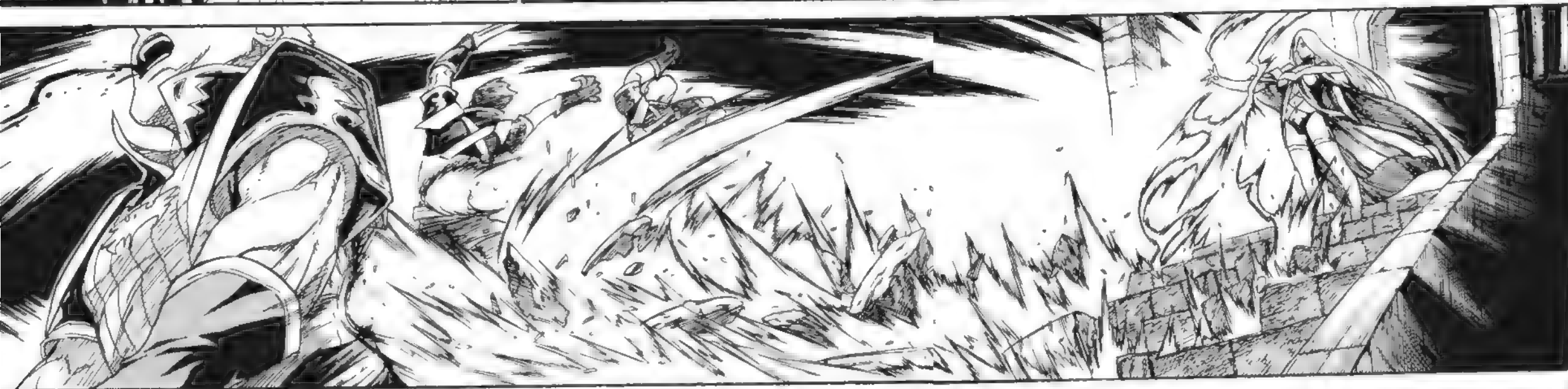






PROTECT  
LADY  
GÜSTAV  
AT ALL  
COSTS!!

STAY  
BACK!



R  
A  
A  
A  
H  
!!!



I COULD  
NEVER KILL  
SUCH A  
CUTIE...

WELL...  
THIS  
WON'T  
DO.

K  
A  
T  
T  
E

A  
I  
G  
U  
S  
T

K  
I  
D  
O  
S  
A  
(C  
H  
U  
D)

U  
Z  
Z  
I

G  
M  
A  
A  
A  
H  
!







DON'T  
BE  
SCARED  
NOW...

THE  
TRUTH  
IS...  
I HATE  
CON-  
FLICT...



LET'S  
NOT  
FIGHT  
...



THIS IS  
MUCH  
BETTER  
ANYWAY.

DON'T  
YOU  
THINK?



THAT  
CHILD  
MAY HAVE  
FAILED  
TO KILL  
YOU...

...BUT  
I'M  
ACTUALLY  
GLAD  
OF IT.

AT  
FIRST I  
THOUGHT  
YOU AN  
EXPEND-  
ABLE  
PLAYER  
...

...BUT  
INSTEAD  
IT TURNS  
OUT THE  
"BLACK  
SWORD  
WIELDER" IS  
A PRETTY  
LITTLE  
BOY.





...WHEN IT  
COMES TO  
HUMAN-  
BEAST  
HYBRIDS...

OH...

I KNOW  
PLENTY  
...



HOW  
CAN YOU  
KNOW  
THAT!?

SO WHY  
NOT ...  
... HAVE  
SOME  
FUN  
WITH  
ME?



BECAUSE  
TODAY...

...THE  
MOONLIGHT  
IS OBSCURED  
BY CLOUDS,  
BLOCKING  
YOUR  
POWER...

!!



.....

YOU CAN  
ENJOY ME  
LIKE THIS  
FOREVER...



BUT  
YOU'RE  
A RARE  
ONE...

YOUR OTHER  
HALF HAS  
FUSED SO  
SEAMLESSLY  
WITH THE  
HOCH ELFE,  
THE HIGH  
ELVES WHO  
LIVE BY THE  
LIGHT OF THE  
MOONS.



WE  
TRAITOROUS  
LANCES ARE  
MUCH THE  
SAME, YOU  
SEE.....

WE'VE  
ACCEPTED  
THE  
POWERS OF DARK-  
NESS WITHIN  
US.  
SO, UNLIKE  
THE  
SEVEN  
HEROES,  
WE GROW  
NEITHER  
OLD NOR  
UGLY...



YOU  
WANTED  
THE  
KSCHAR-  
LUNDIAN  
BOY, NO?

AH...  
YES...

JUST  
LOOK  
OVER  
THERE...

I'VE TRIED  
TIME AND  
TIME AGAIN  
TO PRODUCE  
A CHILD SUCH  
AS YOU.....

...BUT  
WITH ONLY  
LOW-CLASS  
FAIRIES  
TO WORK  
WITH, ALL  
ATTEMPTS  
HAVE  
ENDED IN  
FAILURE...

!!



WHAT'S  
THIS ALL  
OF A  
SUDDEN  
...?

AHH!

BEFORE  
LONG, I'LL  
SHOW MY  
LOVE AND  
BEGIN TO  
ADD TO  
YOU AS  
WELL...

NNH!

YOU...  
YOUR  
TECH-  
NIQUE...

AS IT  
HAP-  
PENS...

!

ISN'T  
HE  
PRE-  
CIOUS?

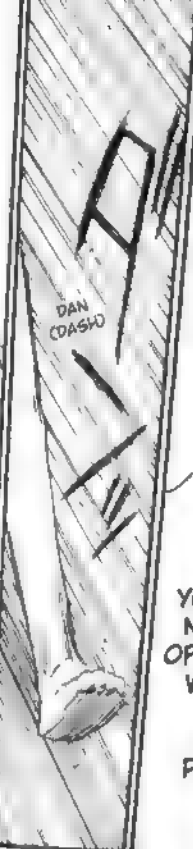
...HE'S  
SITTING  
RIGHT  
OVER  
THERE...

!!











**YOU  
IMPU-  
DENT  
LITTLE  
BRAT  
!!!**



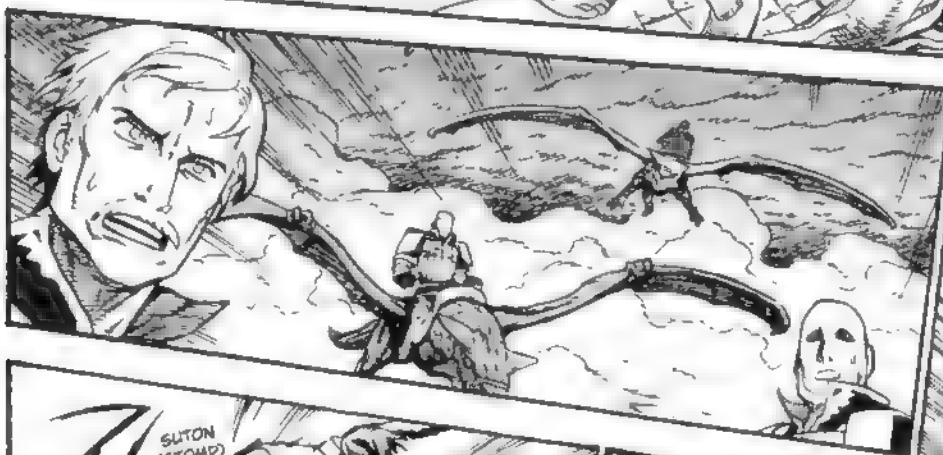
**SHE'S  
HUGE!!**

















THIS IS LADY GÜSTAV'S "INFINITE THUNDER" ...

EEEE! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

IT'S NO USE!!

SHE'S GOING TO RELEASE ALL HER MAGIC AT ONCE!

NOW DIIIIIE !!!

NNNN-RRRA-AAAA-AARH !!!

THE LEADER OF THE TRAITOROUS LANCES...

ASCHERIT HIMSELF...!!!



SHE'S GOING TO DESTROY EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH!!!

GOBAN (WHOOOOOOSH)



THE  
SHOCK  
WAVE  
BLEW  
AWAY  
THE  
CLOUDS  
!!!







TH...



SLEEP  
WELL,  
MY  
LADY.

YOUR  
GAME OF  
PRETEND  
IS OVER.



...WHAT  
KILLED  
KFER...

GWA  
AA  
AA  
H!

...THIS  
IS...









FORGIVE  
ME.....



...MY  
BROTHER.



...  
THAT'S  
...



.....



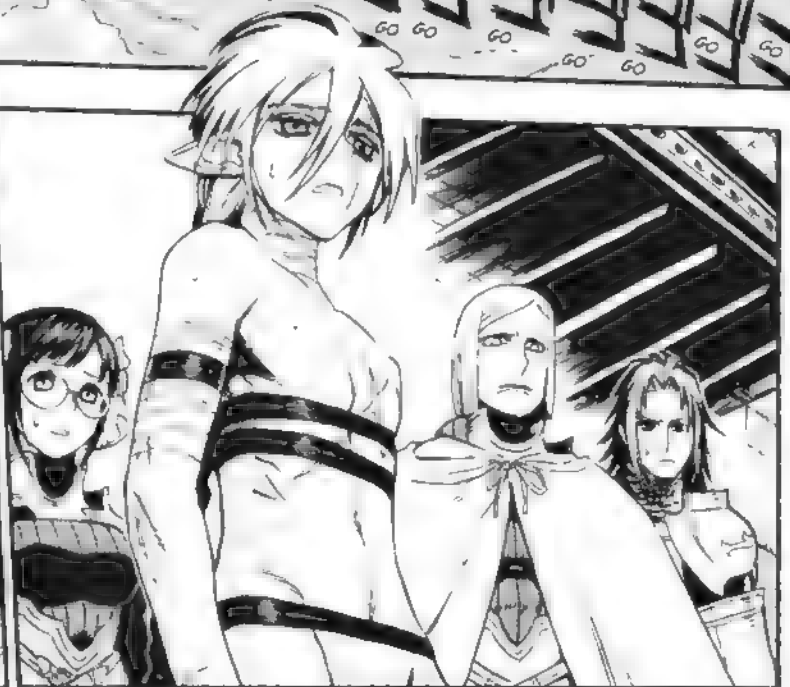
U  
A  
A  
A  
A  
H!



B  
R  
O  
T  
H  
E  
R!!











...HE'S  
PASSED  
OUT.



KÖIN-  
ZELL!



JUST WHO  
IS THIS  
BOY...?

THOSE  
"BLACK  
SWORDS"

BUT THAT  
FIGHTING  
STYLE.....

THAT  
FIGHT  
PROVED  
IT....

WE'VE  
FOUND THE  
"NEW HERO"  
OF THE  
PROPHECY.



...YES,  
AS  
YOU  
SAY.



HE  
NEEDS  
TO RE-  
COVER.

LET'S  
HURRY ON  
TO THE  
MARGRAVE'S  
CASTLE, SIR  
ROZEN.



AS LONG  
AS YOU  
FOLLOW MY  
INTRUC-  
TIONS...

...YOU'LL  
SOON BE  
KING OF  
THESE  
LANDS.



CARE TO  
EXPLAIN  
THIS,  
ASCHERIT!?

FIRST  
KFER,  
NOW  
GÜS-  
STAV...

NO  
NEED TO  
FRET...

...MAR-  
GRAVE.



ALL  
THAT  
REMAINS  
...

...IS TO  
STAMP  
OUT A FEW  
LINGERING  
PESTS.....



THE  
PEOPLE  
WERE  
TIRED OF  
FIGHT-  
ING...

THE  
LAND WAS  
RAVAGED  
BY THE  
WAR WITH  
WISCHTECH.

...THIS  
WHOLE  
REALM  
WAS A  
BATTLE-  
FIELD.

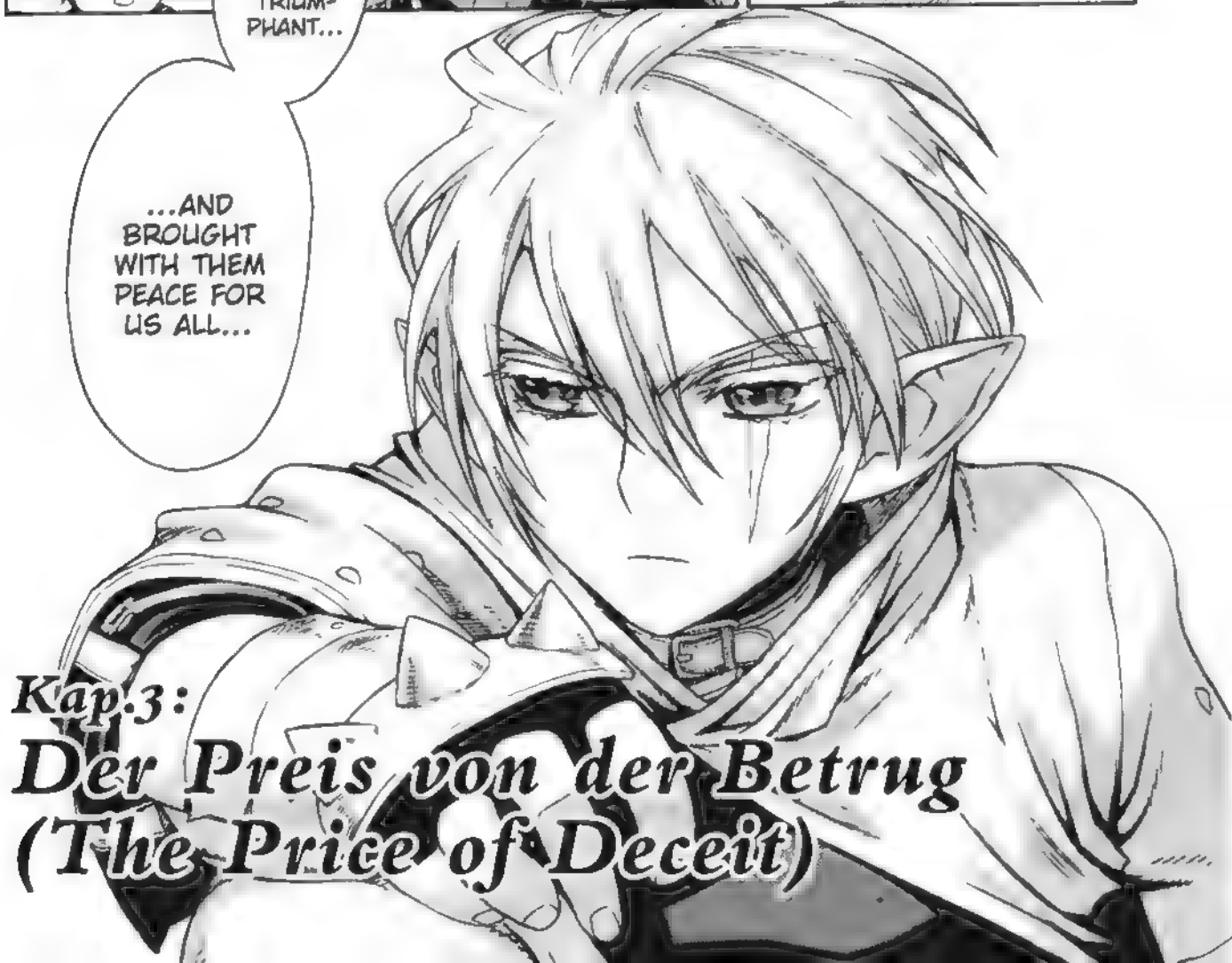
TWENTY  
YEARS  
AGO...



...THE  
SEVEN  
HEROES  
RETURNED  
FROM THEIR  
NOBLE  
MISSION,  
TRIUM-  
PHANT...

...BUT  
THEN...

...AND  
BROUGHT  
WITH THEM  
PEACE FOR  
US ALL...



**Kap.3:**  
**Der Preis von der Betrug**  
**(The Price of Deceit)**





...AND  
GAINED  
ACCEPTANCE  
TO OUR  
LEGION,  
EARNING  
RECOGNITION  
AS FULL  
KNIGHTS.

MANY  
IN THE  
ORDER  
HAVE  
HONED  
THEIR  
SKILLS AS  
WAR-  
RIORS...



WE  
OF THE  
ORDER  
OF THE  
SEVEN  
LANCES  
...



REALLY  
!?

IF YOU  
DEVOTE  
YOURSELF  
TO THE  
TASK...  
...YOU  
COULD  
JOIN THE  
ORDER  
AS WELL  
SOME-  
DAY.

...ARE NOT  
OF HIGH  
BIRTH, BUT  
WE ADMIRE  
THE SEVEN  
HEROES WHO  
FREED OUR  
LAND FROM  
WAR...



!!?



...SO WE  
HAVE NO  
CHOICE  
BUT TO  
DETAIN AND  
OBSERVE  
YOU.

WE NEED  
TO KNOW  
IF YOU'RE  
REALLY THE  
"NEW HERO"  
FROM THE  
PROPHECY...



...KÖIN-  
ZELL.

I DON'T  
SUPPOSE  
YOU HAVE  
ANY  
INTEREST IN  
JOINING?

!



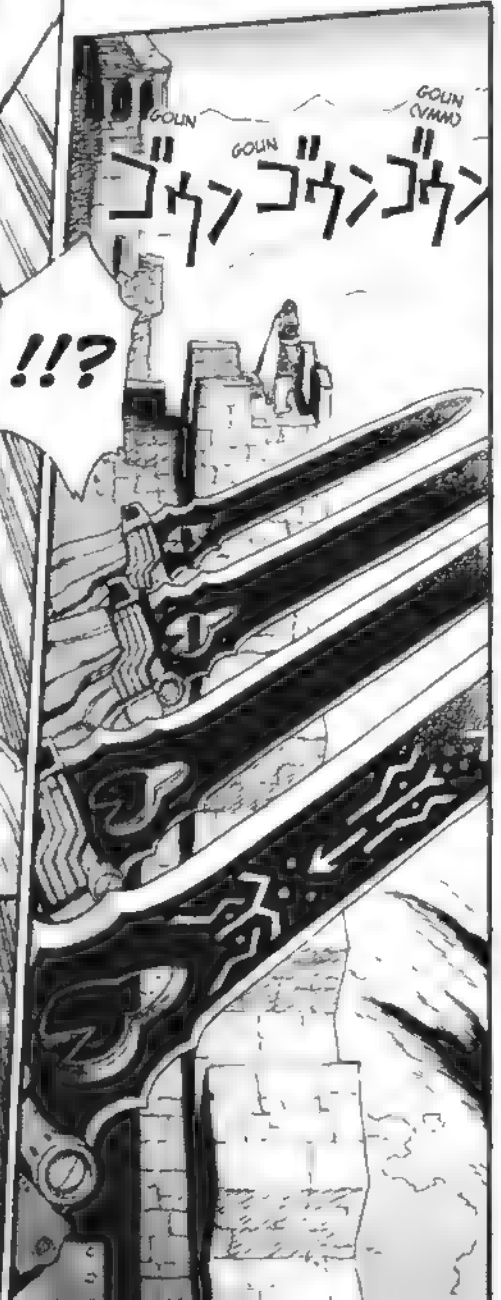


KÖINZELL  
ISN'T FULLY  
RECOVERED  
YET...

...SO  
LET'S  
STOP  
FOR  
A—

LORD  
RIGLES,  
LOOK!  
THAT'S  
...!!

!!?



GOUN GOUN GOUN  
GOUN (VMM)







ZUBAN  
(CRACK)



COULD THE  
CASTLE  
HAVE  
FALLEN  
INTO THE  
ENEMY'S  
HANDS...?

IT  
CAN'T  
BE!



A...  
A WHOLE  
MOUNTAIN—  
DESTROYED  
!!?

WHAT  
INCRED-  
IBLE  
POWER  
...!!



IS THE  
MARGRAVE  
SAFE!?

THE  
MAR-  
GRAVE  
...



THEY'VE  
EVADED  
EVERY  
SINGLE  
SHOT!

THAT  
DAMN  
SHIP!!



DOGOO!  
KABOOM!



FULL  
SPEED  
AHEAD.



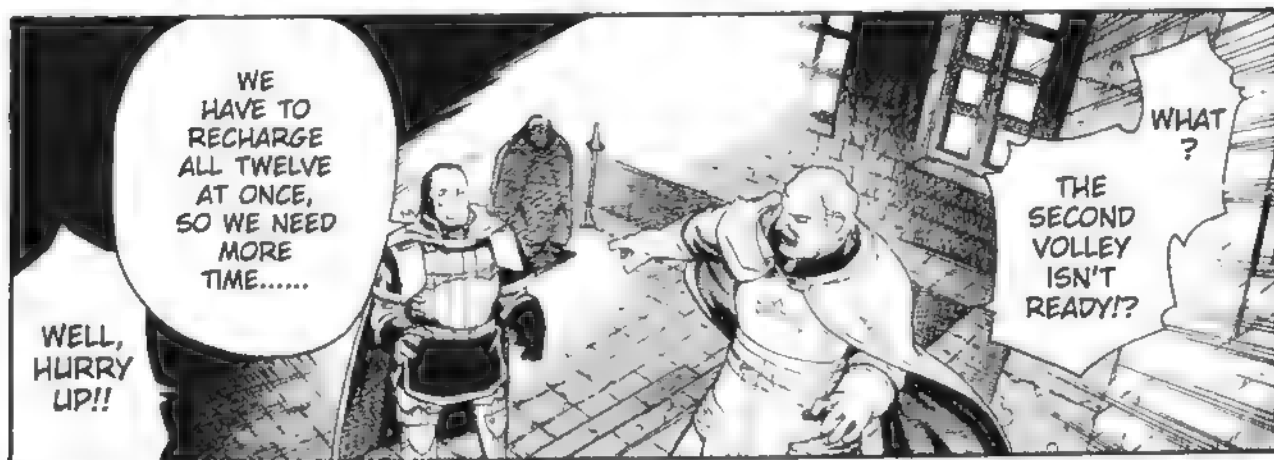
NO...

?



JUST ONE  
DIRECT  
HIT WOULD  
HAVE  
FINISHED  
US.

WE  
MUST  
RETREAT  
FOR  
NOW...



WE  
HAVE TO  
RECHARGE  
ALL TWELVE  
AT ONCE,  
SO WE NEED  
MORE  
TIME.....

WELL,  
HURRY  
UP!!

WHAT  
?

THE  
SECOND  
VOLLEY  
ISN'T  
READY!?



TAKE A  
GOOD  
LOOK!!  
THE NEXT  
VOLLEY  
WILL  
BRING  
THEM  
DOWN—

EEP  
....!!

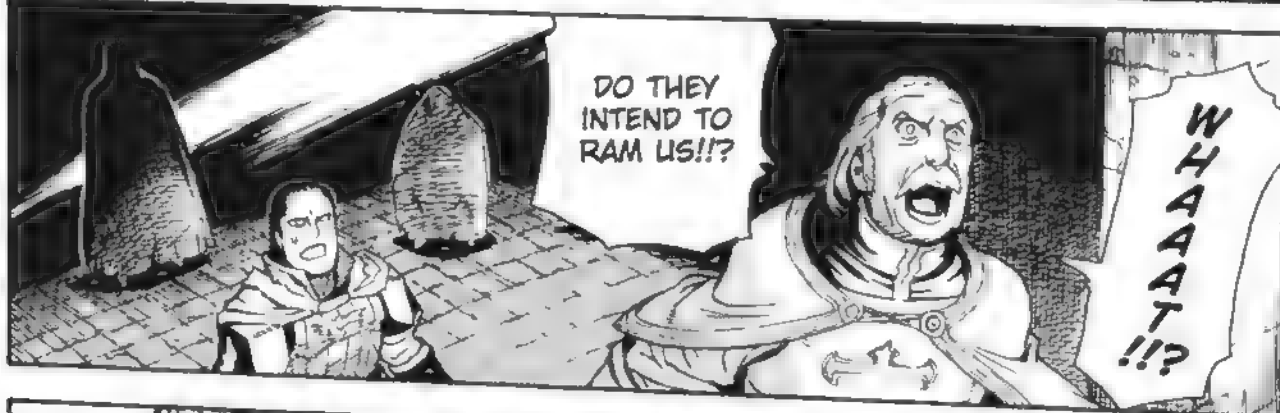


SHUT  
YOUR  
MOUTH,  
KRENTEL.



IT  
SOUNDS AS  
THOUGH YOU  
SHOULD NOT  
HAVE FIRED  
THEM ALL  
TOGETHER,  
MY LORD  
MARGRAVE.







YOU'RE  
GOING  
ALONE!?

THAT'S  
INSANE!



I'LL  
DESTROY  
THE AR-  
TILLERY.



DON'T  
WORRY.

I'M  
USED  
TO THIS.

ONCE  
I DROP,  
BRING UP  
THE SHIP  
AND  
RETREAT!

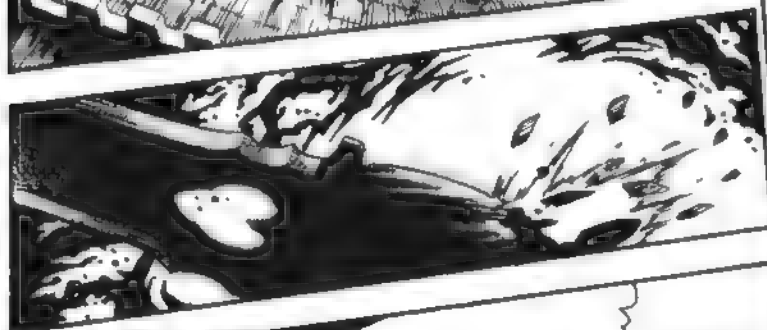


WHAT  
THE  
...?

SOME  
KID  
JUST  
...!!

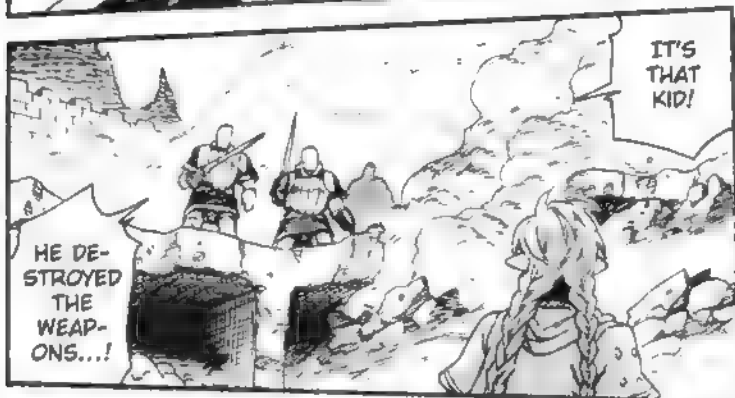


FU  
(SWIP)









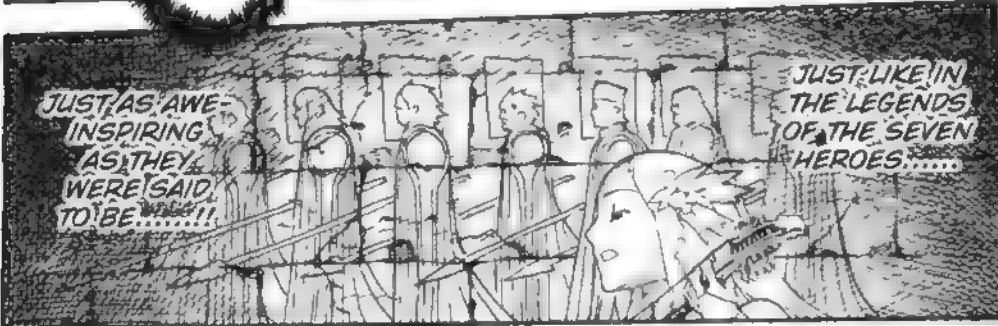


PRESSING  
EVER  
ONWARD  
AS HE  
MOWS DOWN  
ENEMIES  
LEFT AND  
RIGHT.....

DIVING IN  
THROUGH  
THE ROAR  
OF THOSE  
FEARSOME  
WISCHTECH  
WEAPONS.



LOOK  
AT  
HIM...



JUST AS AWE-  
INSPIRING  
AS THEY  
WERE SAID  
TO BE.....!!

JUST LIKE IN  
THE LEGENDS  
OF THE SEVEN  
HEROES.....

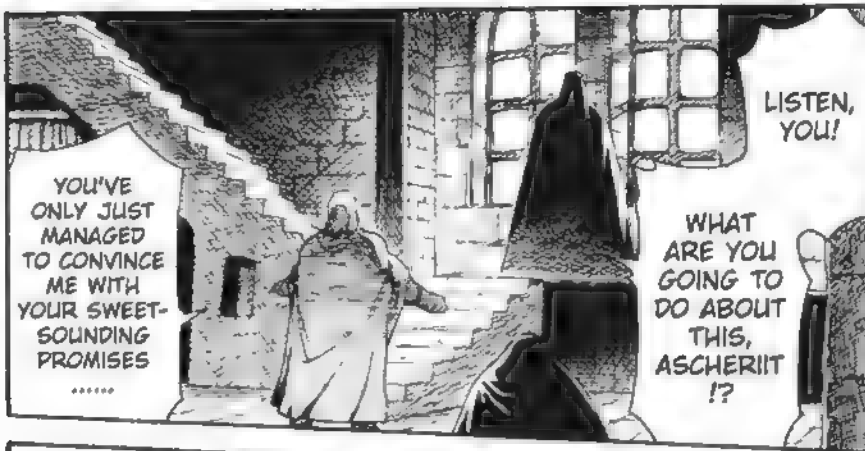


I NO  
LONGER  
DOUBT  
IT...

...WE'RE  
WITNESS-  
ING THE  
BIRTH OF  
A NEW  
HERO.....!!







YOU'VE ONLY JUST MANAGED TO CONVINCE ME WITH YOUR SWEET-SOUNDING PROMISES

LISTEN, YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS, ASCHERIT!?

SO THAT'S ...



THEY'LL RAIN DOWN THEIR ANGER UPON THE CASTLE, DEFENSELESS NOW WITHOUT ITS WALLS OR WEAPONS!!

...BUT IF THIS GETS OUT, THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND WILL KNOW I'VE AGREED TO SUPPORT YOUR ARMY.....

...THE "MAN OF THE BLACK SWORD"



LINE UP TWENTY OR THIRTY OF THEM AND CLAIM THEY WERE REBEL SYMPATHIZERS.

WE'VE USED SIMILAR TACTICS IN THE PAST.

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE PEASANTS, JUST DISPLAY A FEW OF THEIR HEADS ON PIKES.

THAT SHOULD SUBDUCE THE REST.



MY MAGICS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AS A LAST RESORT...

AND WHY SHOULDN'T YOURS BE ONE OF THOSE SKEWERED HEADS!?

IT'S REALLY A SIMPLE SOLUTION.

OUR OPTIONS ARE NOT SPENT.

NO NEED TO RAISE YOUR VOICE SO.



WITH  
YOUR  
PERMIS-  
SION...

HEH  
HEH  
...



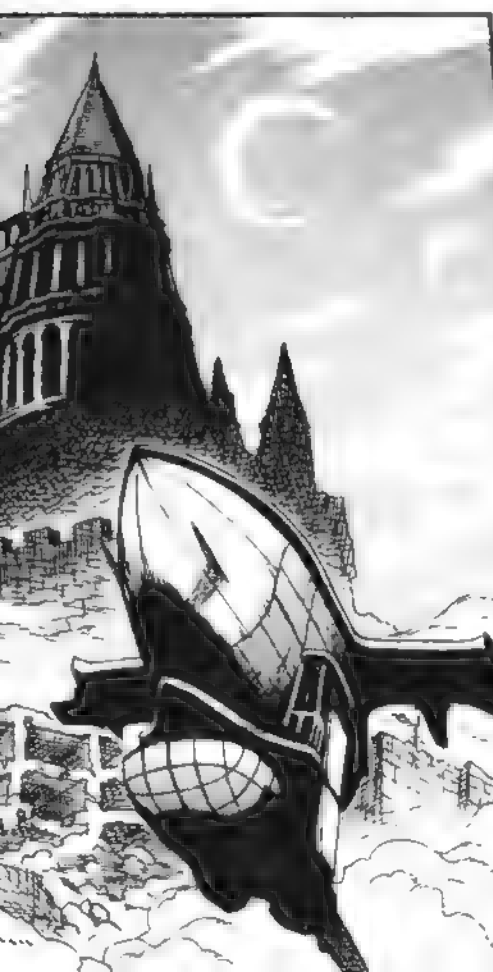
ARRRGH!!  
GAH!!?

AH...  
GIZ...



ENOUGH  
OF YOUR  
FINE  
WORDS,  
THEN! GET  
ON WITH  
IT!!

SHOW  
US  
THIS  
"LAST  
RE-  
SORT"  
!!



GA  
AA  
AA  
AH



KREN...  
TEL...

...  
YOU  
...

...  
BAS  
...





THE  
"MAN  
OF THE  
BLACK  
SWORD,"  
IS IT...!?



SO  
THIS IS  
WHERE  
YOU'VE  
BEEN  
HIDING...

KÖIN-  
ZELL!!



...WILL  
ASSIST  
US IN OUR  
RETREAT.

...PER-  
HAPS  
THE MAR-  
GRAVE ...



!?

...SADLY,  
YOU MAY BE  
RIGHT.



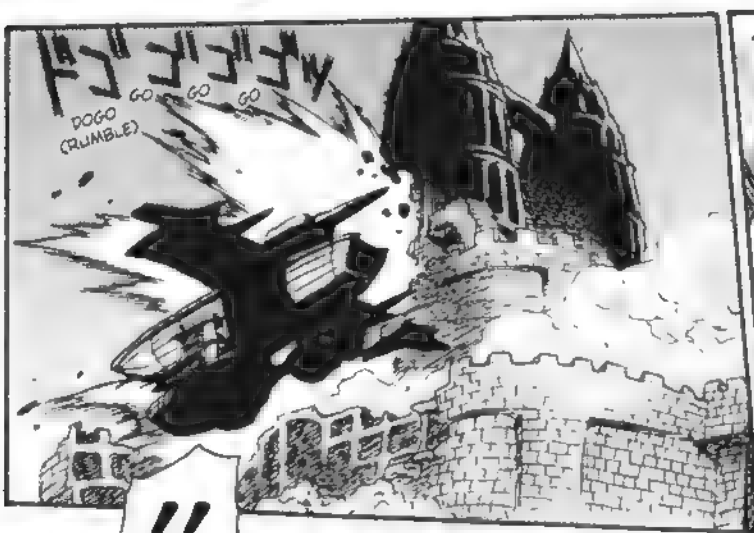
AS  
SUCH ...

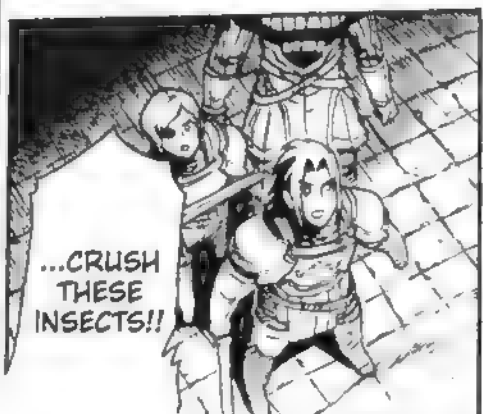
YOU BAS-  
TARDS ARE FIN-  
ISHED!!

YES, FEAST  
YOUR EYES!  
THAT'S OUR  
KÖINZELL,  
MAN OF THE  
BLACK  
SWORD!

















TWENTY YEARS!



...AND  
YOU'VE SET  
US BACK TO  
ZERO...!!

FOR TWENTY  
YEARS WE'VE  
PLOTED OUR  
REVENGE ON  
THE SEVEN  
HEROES...



...YOU'VE  
COME  
AT LAST,  
"MAN  
OF THE  
BLACK  
SWORD."



DA  
(CLAP)

!!



HYEH  
HEH  
...

THAT'S  
RICH...!





...EVEN  
THOUGH  
IT'S  
ALREADY  
TOO  
LATE!!

WELL,  
WHAT WILL  
YOU DO!?  
BEG FOR  
YOUR LIFE?  
THAT WOULD  
BE SWEET  
MUSIC TO  
MY EARS...



AM I  
WRONG  
!?



YOU  
WILL  
LOSE  
HERE.

YOU DON'T  
HAVE THE  
POWER TO  
SUMMON  
THOSE  
BLACK  
SWORDS  
OF  
YOURS.



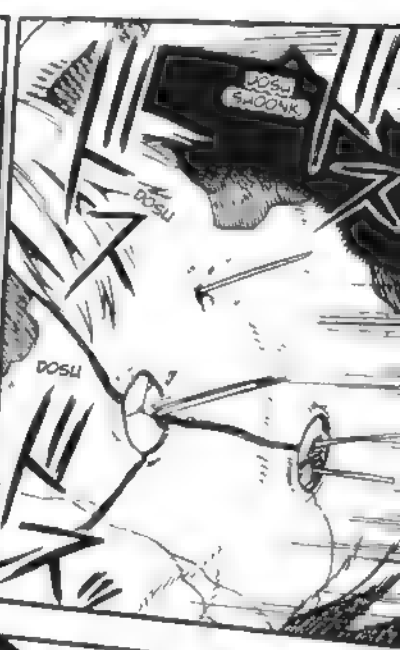
KRENTZ,  
ANOTH-  
ER!!



JUST A  
SECOND!!



RAA  
AA  
H!!



BAKHA  
CORACKO



THIS IS  
HOW THE  
SEVEN  
HEROES'  
KNIGHTS  
FIGHT...!!



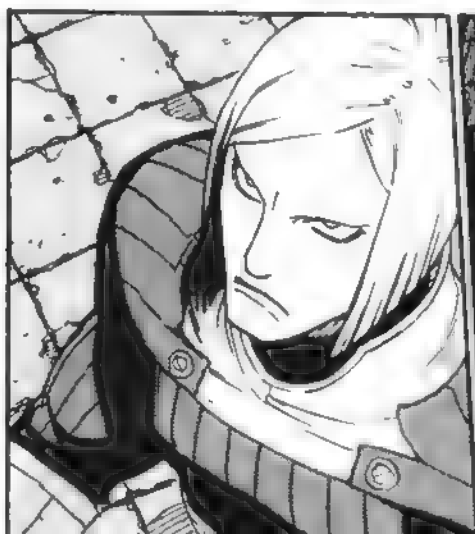
THIS  
IS...

AMAZ-  
ING...



GH...

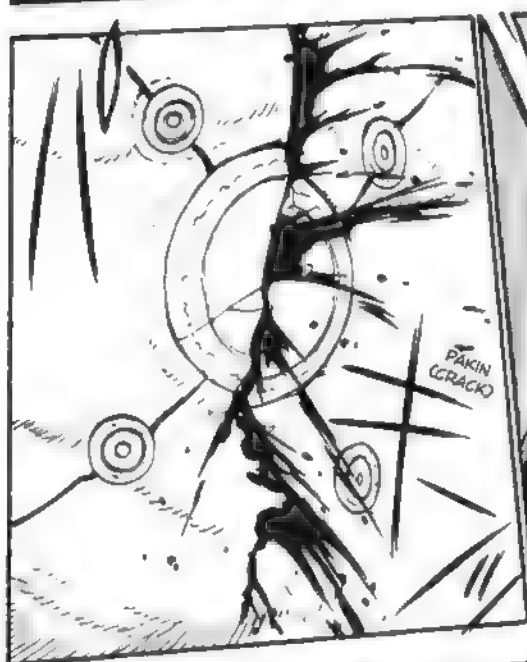
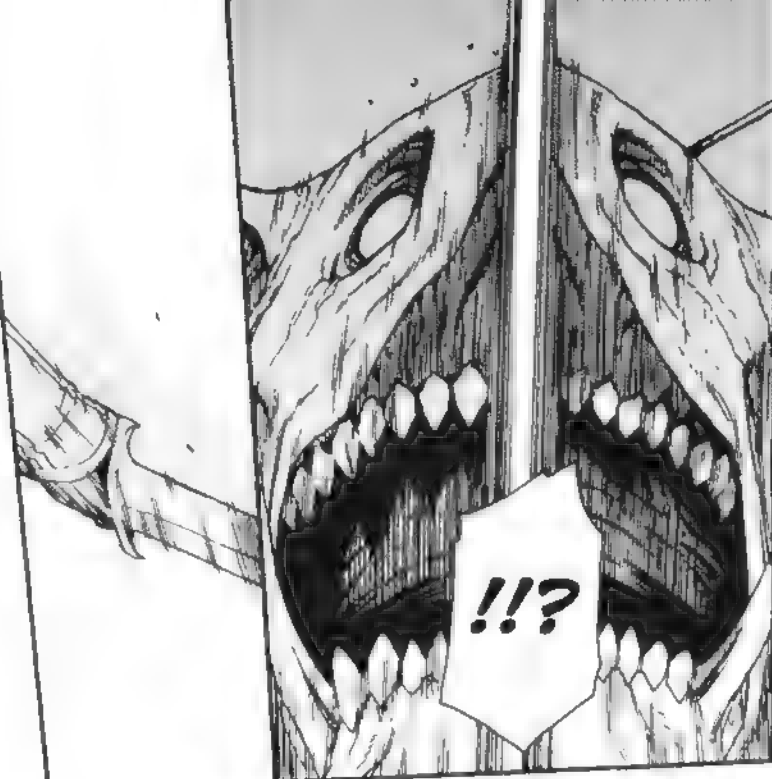
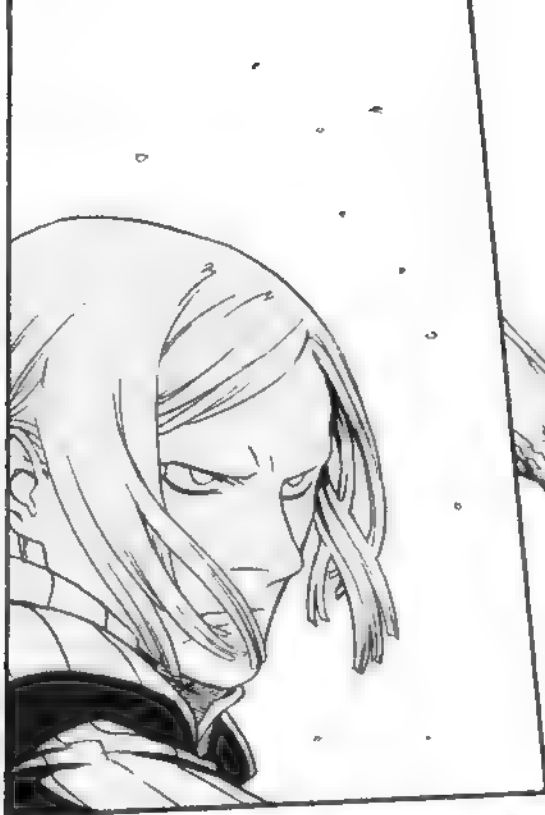
AHH...



THE  
MARGRAVE  
IS  
SLOWING  
DOWN!







HE BROUGHT  
DOWN THAT  
GIANT WITH  
ONE BLOW...  
A MOVEMENT  
I COULDN'T  
EVEN  
SEE...!!

WHAT  
SKILL  
...!!

HE BROUGHT  
DOWN THAT  
GIANT WITH  
ONE BLOW...  
A MOVEMENT  
I COULDN'T  
EVEN  
SEE...!!

WHAT  
SKILL  
...!!

LIN...

... UNDERSTOOD!

LIN...

... UNDERSTOOD!

I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU!!

I'M HEADING UP TO ASSIST KOIN-ZELL...!

I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU!!

I'M HEADING UP TO ASSIST KÖIN-ZELL...!

ニエウウウウ

OH H... OH H...

OH H...

OH H...

SHING!

ニエウウウウ

KR...

...KREN...  
TE...L...

SHUUUUUU

ウ

KR...

...KREN...  
TE...L...

SHUUUUUU

ウ

KR...

...KREN...  
TE...L...

SHUUUUUU

ウ



GUGAAH!



GA  
(ISLAND)



LOOK...  
LOOK...  
UPON...  
THIS  
FORM...



RI...  
GLES...

HUH...?  
MAR-  
GRAVE!?



GNH...  
UNHAND  
ME...  
STOP  
THIS...

DON'T  
!!!



I...  
SOUGHT  
POWER...

I...  
CHOSE...  
WRONG...





...CHOOSE  
YOUR ALLIES  
WISELY...  
FOR ABOVE  
ALL ELSE...  
YOU NEED...

...  
POWER.



IF YOU  
WISH  
TO RULE  
THESE  
BORDER-  
LANDS...

DOGO  
(CRASH)



MAR-  
GRAVE  
...



OH NO!  
THE  
CASTLE'S  
STARTING  
TO COME  
DOWN!

PISTON  
(CRACK)



SHUULU  
(FSHHH)

シウウウ...







YOU DON'T  
REALIZE I'VE  
BEEN TOYING  
WITH YOU?

YOU  
LITTLE  
FOOL.



BA  
(BLOOSH)



WHAT'S  
THAT  
...?



EVEN I...  
BARELY  
MAN-  
AGED...

...TO  
RETURN  
YOUR  
SLASH  
JUST  
NOW...



TCH...

HEH  
HEH...

I SEE...  
YOU'RE  
NOT COM-  
PLETELY  
PATHETIC  
...







AFTER  
ALL,  
YOU'RE  
NOT  
REALLY  
HIM.

IT'S  
HARDLY  
AB-  
SURD...



HOW IS IT  
THAT THE  
BLOOD  
OF BLATT  
MEISTER  
ASCHERIT  
.....

...COULD  
HAVE  
BEEN  
SPILLED  
BY A  
CHILD'S  
BLADE  
...?



"ASCHER-  
IT."

YOUR  
GAME OF  
PRETEND  
IS OVER.



UP  
RA  
AA  
AH!







THESE  
FOUR  
BLADES  
PORTEND  
DESPAIR...

THIS  
IS MY  
SECRET  
TECH-  
NIQUE.

**"BLACK  
WING."**

I  
POSSESS  
NOT ONLY  
A PAIR OF  
UNAS-  
SAILABLE  
WHITE  
SWORDS  
...  
...BUT  
ALSO  
THESE  
JET-BLACK  
BLADES,  
FUELED  
BY MY  
MAGIC.







HEH-  
HEH-HEH...  
THINGS BECOME  
DULL SO QUICKLY  
WHEN I UNLEASH  
MY BLACK WING  
\*\*\*\*\*

TREADING  
ON ANTS IS  
NO AMUSE-  
MENT AT  
ALL.....!



TCH  
...!



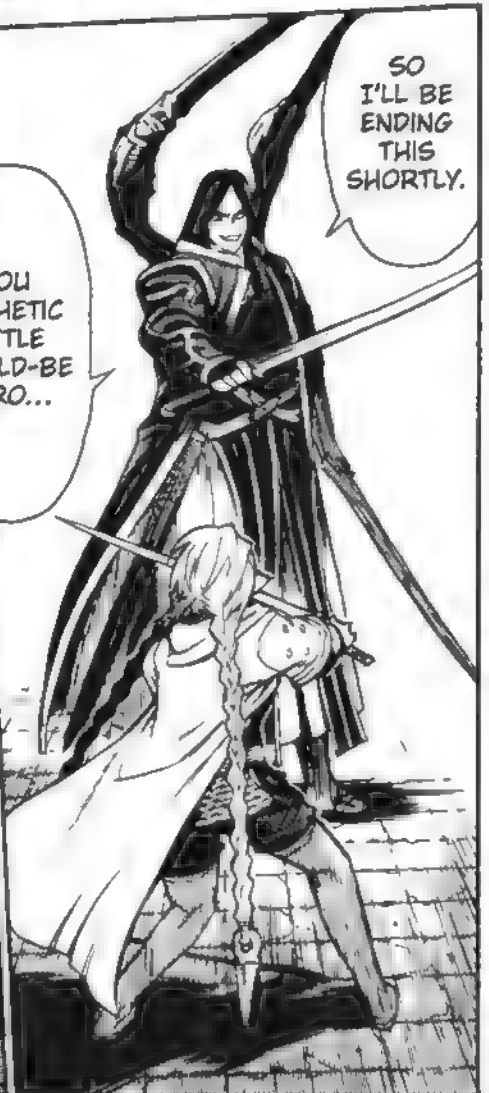
THE BLATT  
MEISTER'S  
ILLUSIONARY  
"BLACK WING."  
IT WILL BE  
THE LAST  
THING YOU  
SEE.

THIS  
TECH-  
NIQUE  
IS DE-  
SCRIBED  
IN  
LEGEND.

YOU  
SHOULD  
BE HON-  
ORED!!



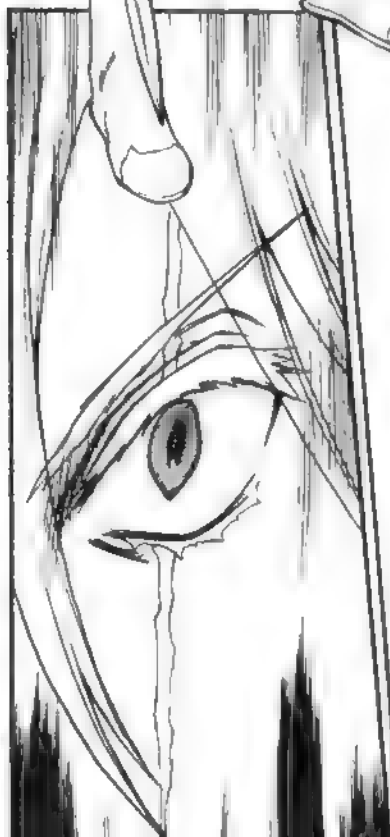
YOU  
PATHETIC  
LITTLE  
WOULD-BE  
HERO...



SO  
I'LL BE  
ENDING  
THIS  
SHORTLY.



64  
CHWOOD





WHA  
....!!?

BLACK  
...  
CLAWS  
...!?

!!!















BUT THERE,  
THE ONES  
YOU CALL  
THE "SEVEN  
HEROES"...

...TURNED  
BACK  
OUT OF  
FEAR...

THE  
REMAINING  
ELEVEN  
TRAVELED AS  
FAR AS THE  
ENTRANCE TO  
THE FOREST  
OF DEATH...

THREE  
LOST  
THEIR  
LIVES  
ALONG  
THE  
WAY.

BUT MY  
STORY  
IS A BIT  
DIFFER-  
ENT.....



...RISKED  
THEIR LIVES  
AND SANITY  
TO COMPLETE  
THE MISSION  
BEFORE  
HEADING  
HOME-  
WARD...

THE  
FOUR  
WHO  
PRESSED  
ON...  
...NOW DESCRIBED  
AS THE  
"TRAITOR-  
OUS  
LANCES"...

BUT  
THOSE  
SEVEN  
LAY IN  
WAIT.

BUT IT  
GETS  
EVEN  
MORE  
SHOCK-  
ING...



!!?

WELL?  
DOES  
THAT  
SURPRISE  
YOU?

I WAS  
SO SURE  
THOSE  
FOURTEEN  
WOULD BE  
COMRADES  
TO THE  
END.

IT  
SUR-  
PRISED  
ME.



THE  
SEVEN,  
WANTING  
ALL THE  
GLORY FOR  
THEM-  
SELVES...



...CON-  
FRONTED  
THE FOUR  
WITH WHOM  
THEY HAD  
TRAVELED  
AND  
FOUGHT...



...AND  
SLEW  
THEM  
IN COLD  
BLOOD  
!!



I STILL  
DON'T KNOW  
WHETHER I  
ABSORBED  
THE FAIRY'S  
ESSENCE...

...OR  
WHETHER IT  
ABSORBED  
MINE. IT'S  
HARD TO  
SAY.

IT TOOK  
TEN WHOLE  
YEARS JUST  
TO ASSUME  
A VAGUELY  
HUMAN-  
LOOKING  
FORM...

THIS  
BODY IS  
HIGHLY  
UNSTA-  
BLE.....

WITH MY  
ARMS AND LEGS  
SEVERED AND  
MY ENTRAILS  
CARPETING THE  
FOREST FLOOR,  
I SWORE  
REVENGE ON  
THOSE SEVEN...



...I COME  
TO FIND YOU  
IGNORANT  
FOOLS,  
CALLING  
YOURSELVES  
THE  
"TRAITOROUS  
LANCES" AND  
WREACKING  
HAVOC...

AND  
NOW, AFTER  
TWENTY LONG  
YEARS OF  
STRUGGLING...

EEK!!

THEY  
THREW  
MY BODY  
INTO THE  
VALLEY AS  
I CURSED  
THEM...

WHEN I  
CAME TO, I  
DISCOVERED  
THAT,  
WITHOUT  
REALIZING  
IT...

...I HAD  
BEEN  
DEVOURING  
A BEAUTIFUL  
FOREST-  
DWELLING  
FAIRY.



DO YOU KNOW  
HOW THESE  
BORDERLANDS  
HAVE SUFFERED  
IN YOUR TWENTY-  
YEAR ABSENCE?

I NEVER  
WOULD HAVE  
ASSUMED  
YOUR NAME  
HAD I KNOWN  
YOU STILL  
LIVED.....!!



WHY  
HAVE YOU  
ONLY JUST  
RETURNED  
!!?



WHY  
...?

WHY  
NOW  
...?



ALTHOUGH  
THE LAND WAS  
RAVAGED BY  
THE GREAT  
WAR, WE  
ENDURED.  
WE EVEN  
FOUGHT  
AGAINST  
WISCHTECH.

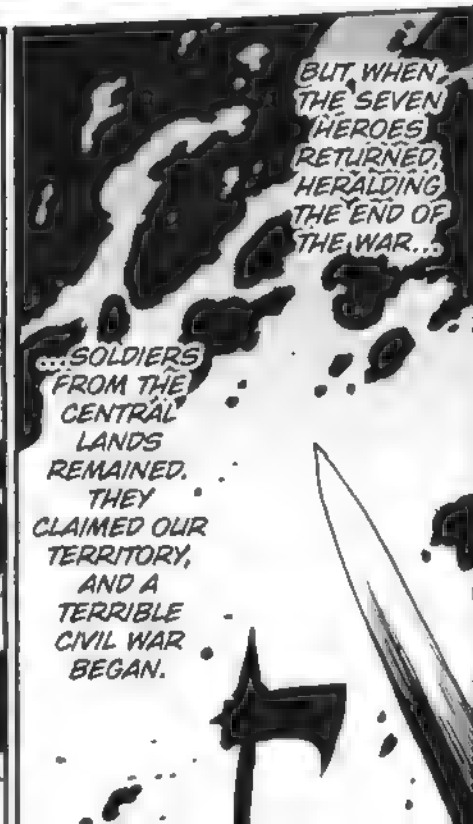
THE FOUR  
OF US WERE  
ONCE LESSER  
LANDHOLDING  
LORDS IN THIS  
REGION.



WE FOUGHT  
THEM...AS  
THE RIGHTFUL  
LANDOWNERS.

OR  
RATHER...  
AS PEOPLE  
BORN AND  
RAISED  
HERE!!

...HOW-  
EVER!!



BUT WHEN  
THE SEVEN  
HEROES  
RETURNED,  
HERALDING  
THE END OF  
THE WAR...

...SOLDIERS  
FROM THE  
CENTRAL  
LANDS  
REMAINED.  
THEY  
CLAIMED OUR  
TERRITORY,  
AND A  
TERRIBLE  
CIVIL WAR  
BEGAN.





IN ORDER TO OPPOSE THE SEVEN HEROES...

IN ORDER TO STABILIZE THE TERRITORY...

...UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A SPINELESS WEAKLING LIKE ALBANUNG.

IN THE END, THE PEACE COULDN'T BE KEPT...

WE NEEDED MORE POWER THAN HE POSSESSED.



THE EMPEROR AND THE SEVEN HEROES EXILED US, BLAMING US FOR THE CIVIL WAR...

THEY SET UP THE COWARDLY ALBANUNG AS MARGRAVE, A MAN WHO HAS DONE LITTLE BUT HIDE AWAY IN HIS OWN CASTLE.



...YEAH, I GOT IT.

TOGETHER, WE COULD STAND AGAINST THE SEVEN HEROES...

...UNDER THE TRUE ASCHERIT ...!



YOU'VE SEEN WHAT WE DID.

UNDER THAT NAME AND THE BLACK WING AND SWORD CREST, WE AMASSED GREAT MILITARY MIGHT...

THAT POWER COULD ALL BE YOURS!!




...AND THE REPUTATION OF THE "TRAITOROUS LANCES" ...


...WE NEEDED WISCH-TECH'S MAGIC...



YOU  
WILL  
PAY THE  
PRICE  
FOR  
THAT.



YOU  
PEOPLE  
...  
YOU'VE  
TAKEN OUR  
NAMES, NAMES  
ALREADY  
BESMIRCHED  
BY THE SEVEN  
HEROES...



BUT I  
HAVE TO  
REFUSE.

...AND  
HEAPED  
FURTHER  
DISGRACE  
UPON US  
WITH YOUR  
ANTICS...



ARR-  
RRR-  
RGH!



BA  
(LEAP)



IF  
YOU  
HAD  
ONLY  
...

WE  
WOULD  
NEVER  
HAVE  
...



WHY  
NOT  
SOON-  
ER...?

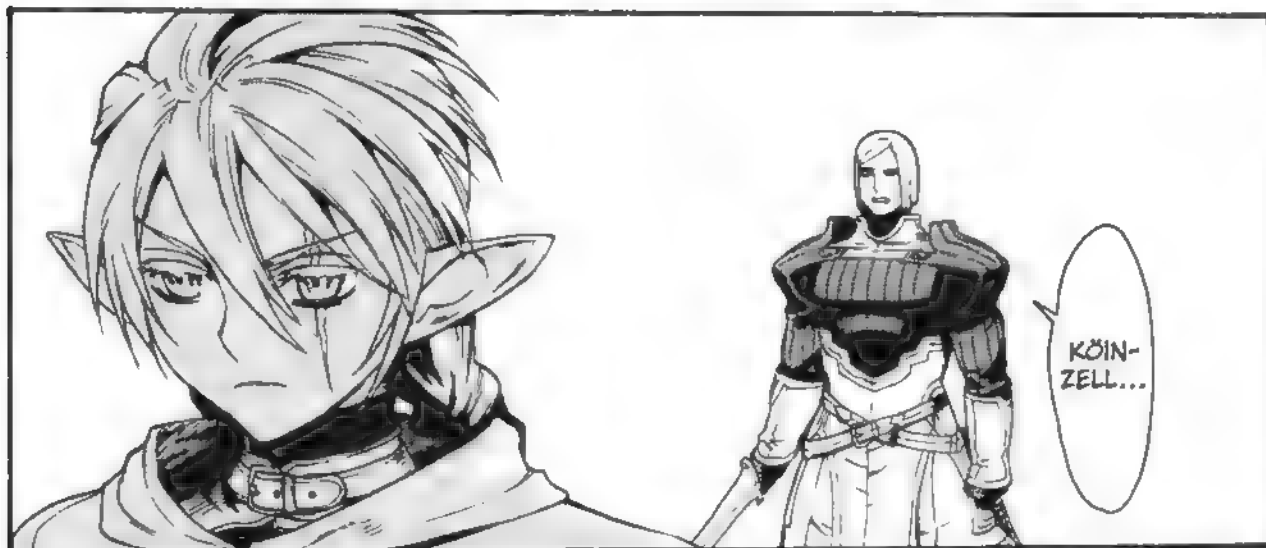
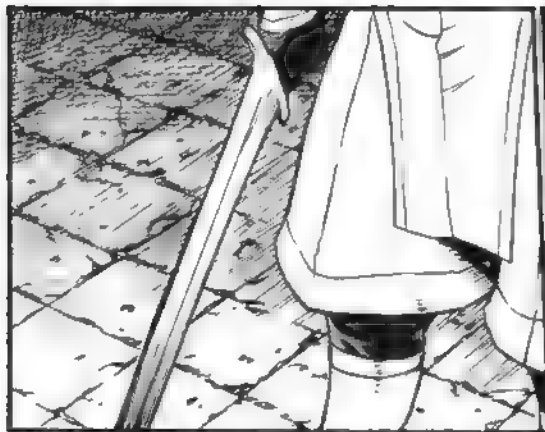
WHY  
WAIT SO  
LONG TO  
RETURN...?

ASCHER-  
IT...



WH...

...  
WHY  
...?











IF YOU  
INSIST  
ON YOUR  
CRUSADE  
AGAINST  
THE SEVEN  
HEROES...

...THEN I  
CANNOT  
STAND  
DOWN  
HERE.



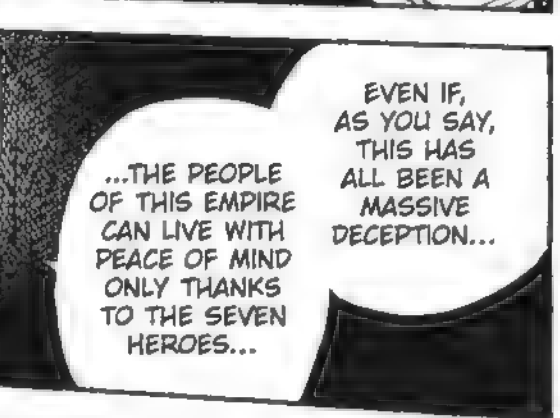
YOU'RE  
A TRUE  
AND  
HONEST  
MAN.

I'D  
RATHER  
NOT  
HURT  
YOU...IF  
I DON'T  
HAVE TO.

ROZEN...  
GIVE UP  
NOW...

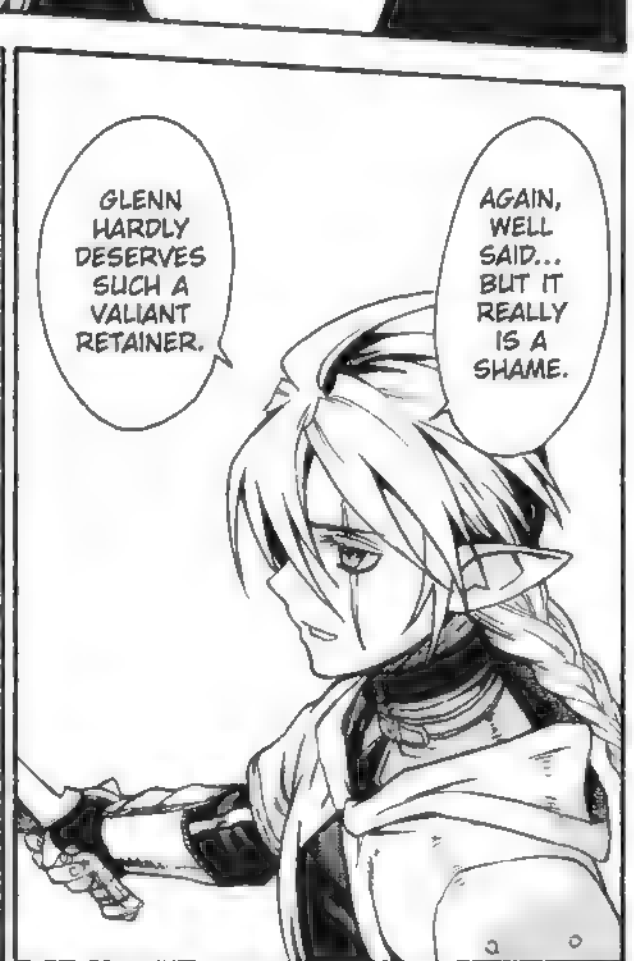


PROTECTING  
THAT  
PRECIOUS  
BALANCE IS  
MY SWORN  
DUTY.



...THE PEOPLE  
OF THIS EMPIRE  
CAN LIVE WITH  
PEACE OF MIND  
ONLY THANKS  
TO THE SEVEN  
HEROES...

EVEN IF,  
AS YOU SAY,  
THIS HAS  
ALL BEEN A  
MASSIVE  
DECEPTION...

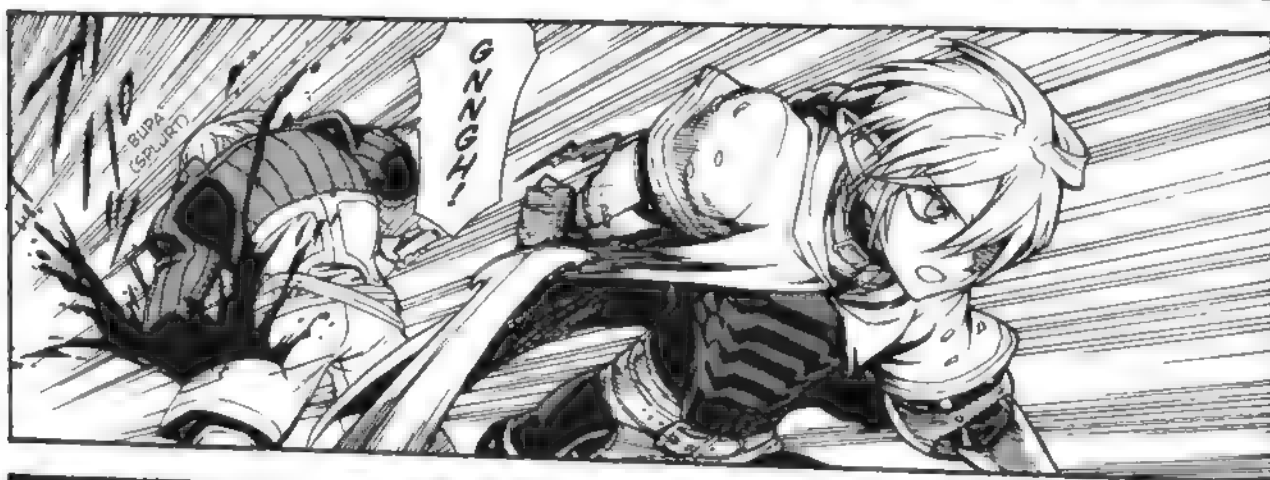
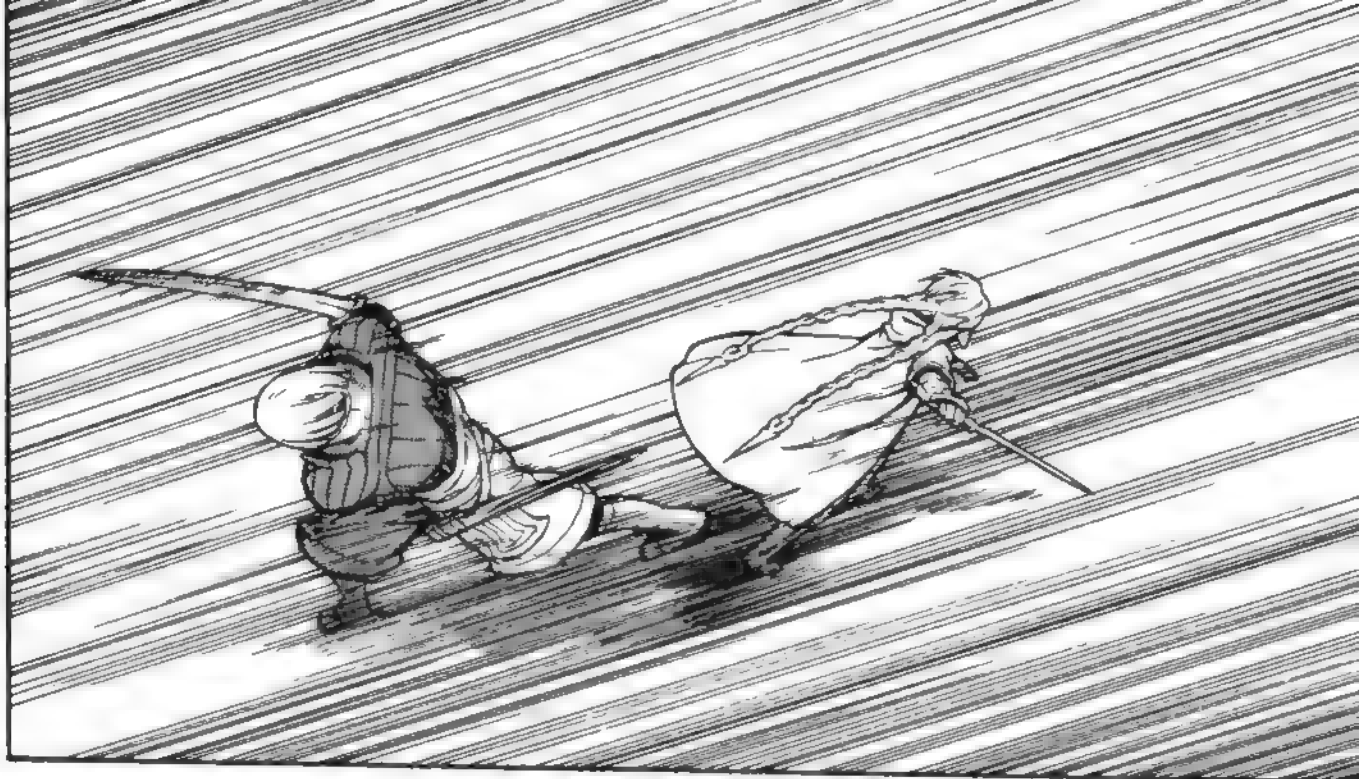


GLENN  
HARDLY  
DESERVES  
SUCH A  
VALIANT  
RETAINER.

AGAIN,  
WELL  
SAID...  
BUT IT  
REALLY  
IS A  
SHAME.







ONCE  
I'VE  
KILLED  
THEM...

...YOU'RE  
WELCOME  
TO TAKE  
MY LIFE.



WAIT!!

KÖIN-  
ZELL!!

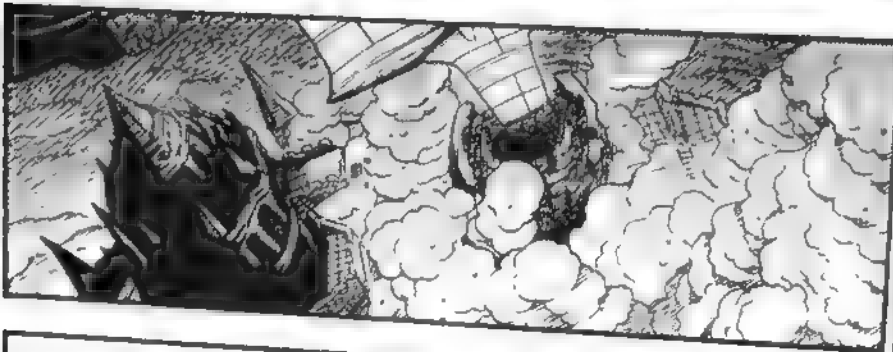
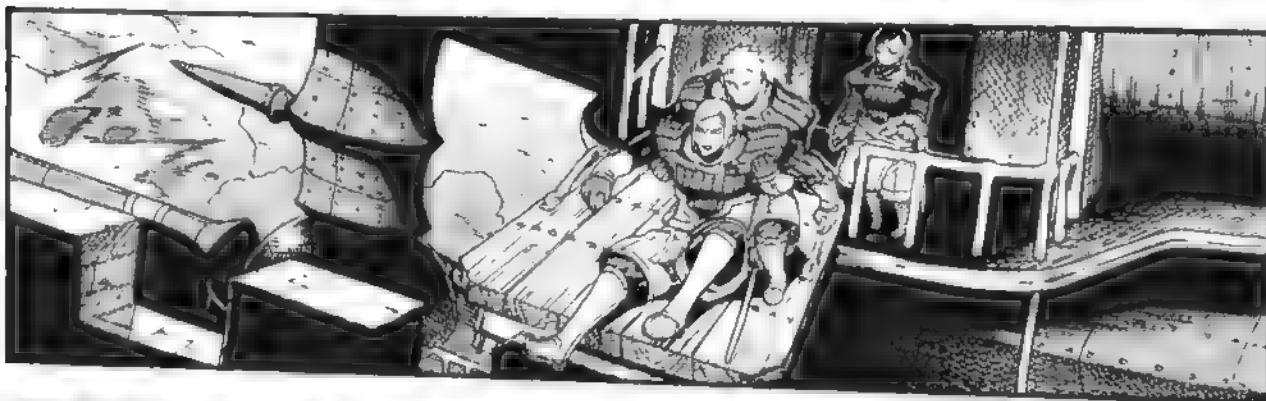
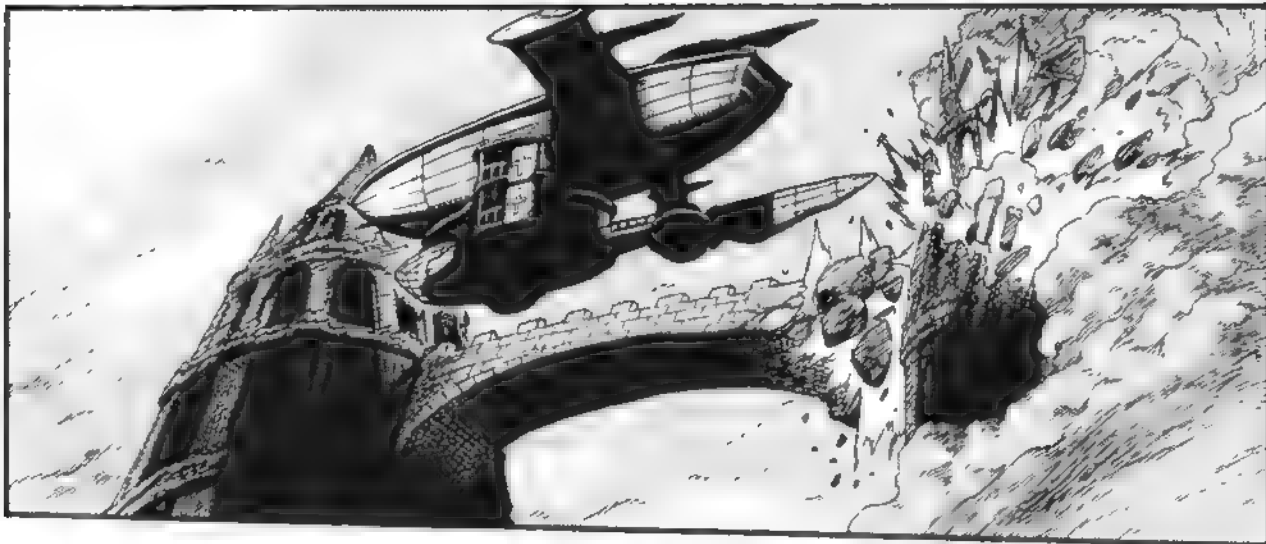
THEY...

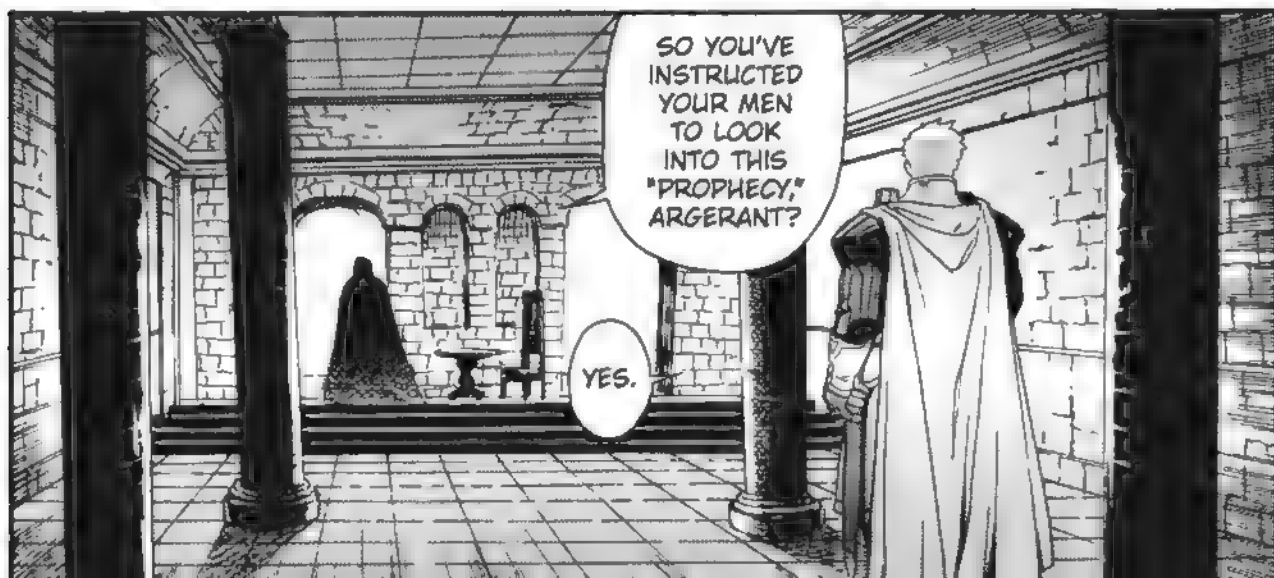
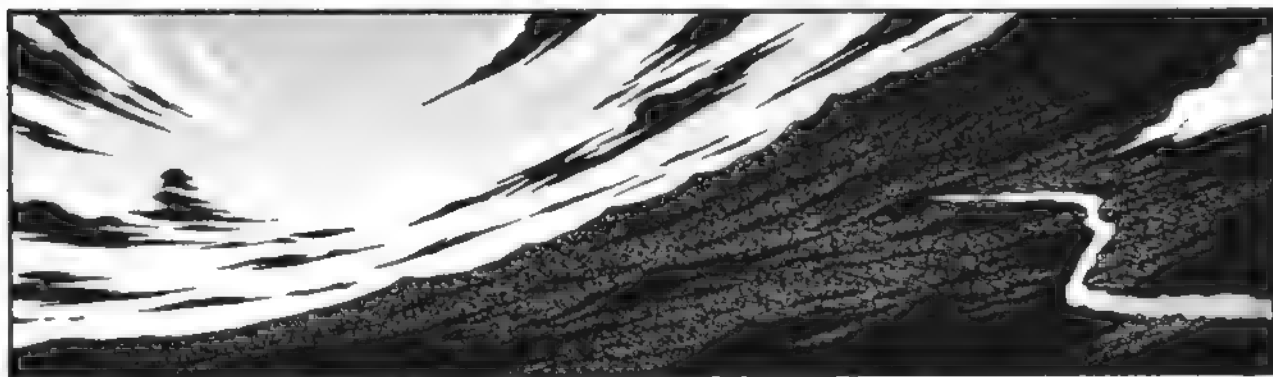
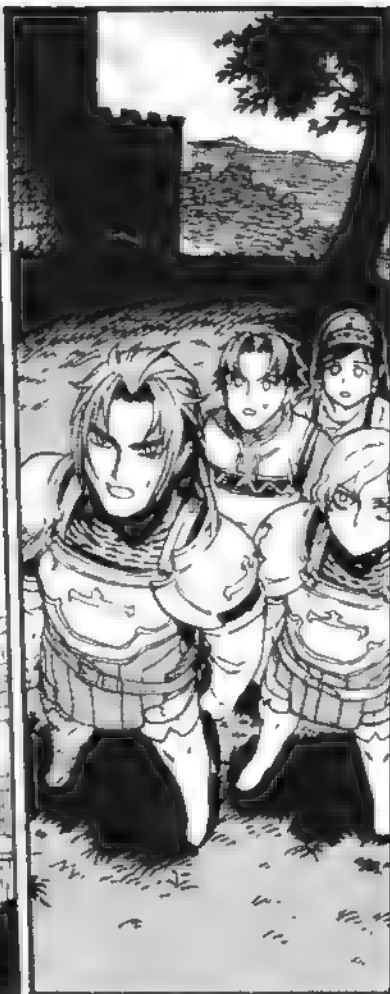
...THE  
ONES WHO  
SLAUGH-  
TERED US  
FOUR...

...WHO  
BRANDED  
US  
"TRAITOR-  
OUS  
LANCES"...

...WHO  
DECEIVED  
THE WORLD  
FOR THEIR  
OWN  
HONOR...  
THE SEVEN  
HEROES  
WILL DIE  
BY MY  
HAND!!











...LORD  
GLENN.

REPORT  
TO ME AS  
SOON AS  
YOU KNOW  
ANYTHING.



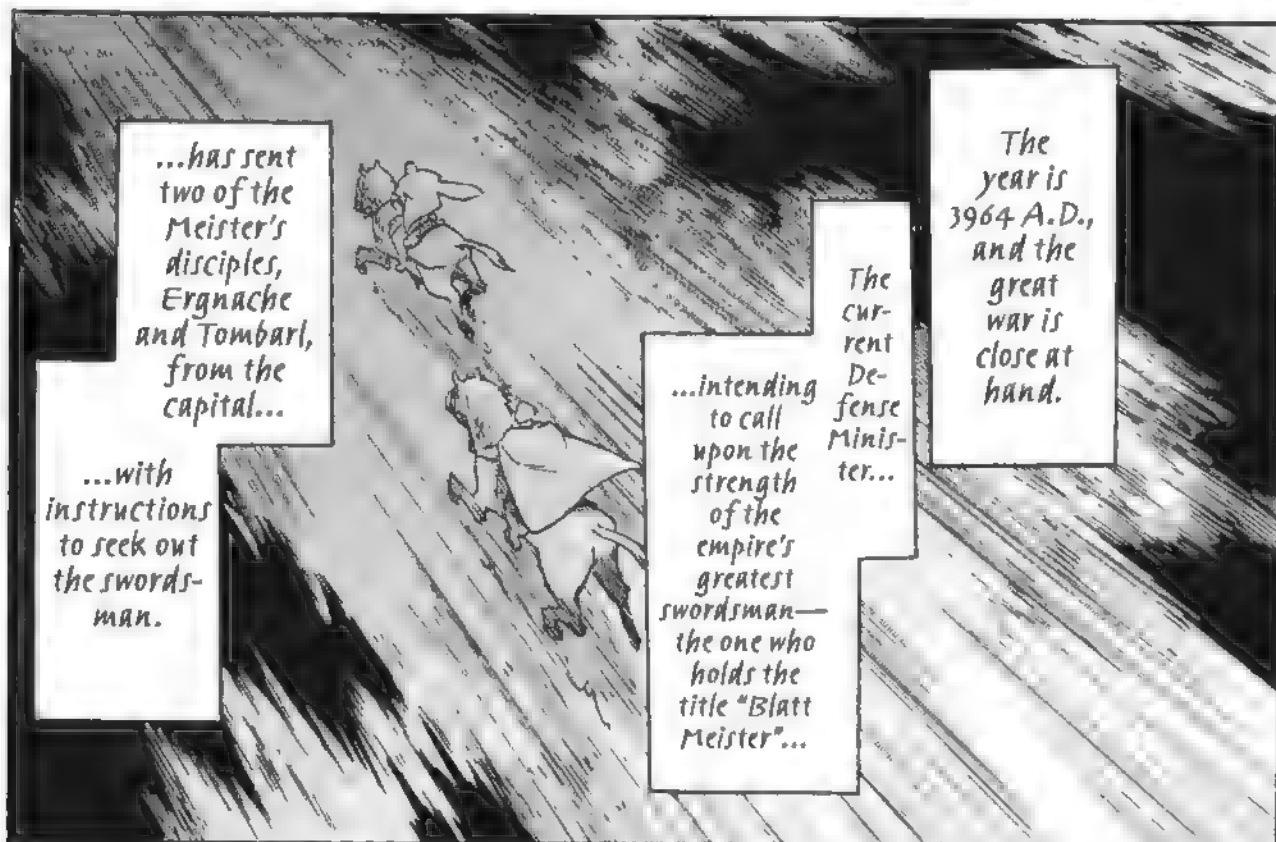
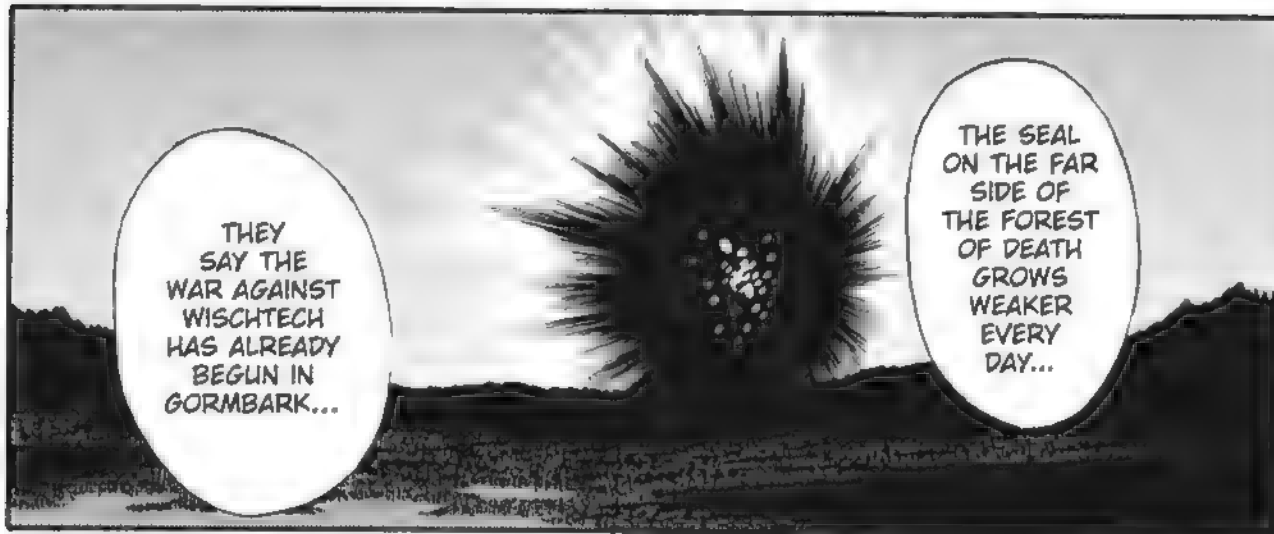
YES...



A  
"NEW  
HERO,"  
THEY  
SAY...

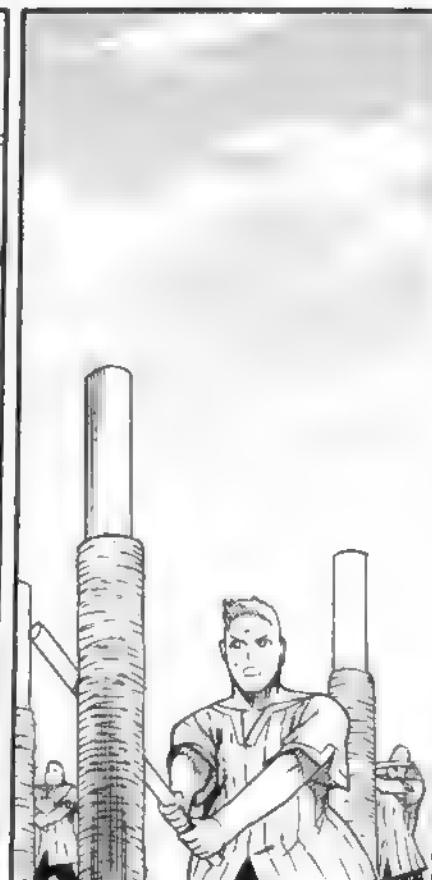
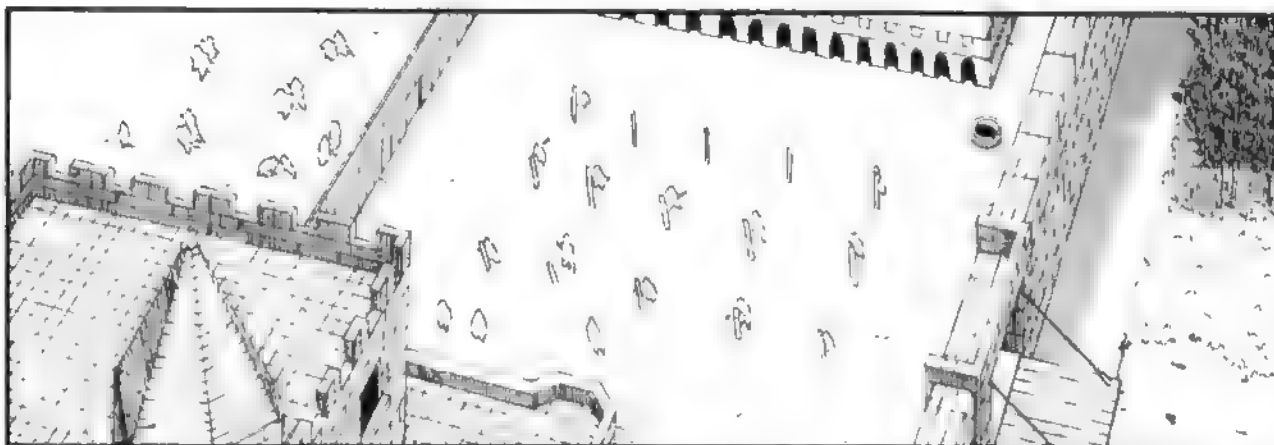
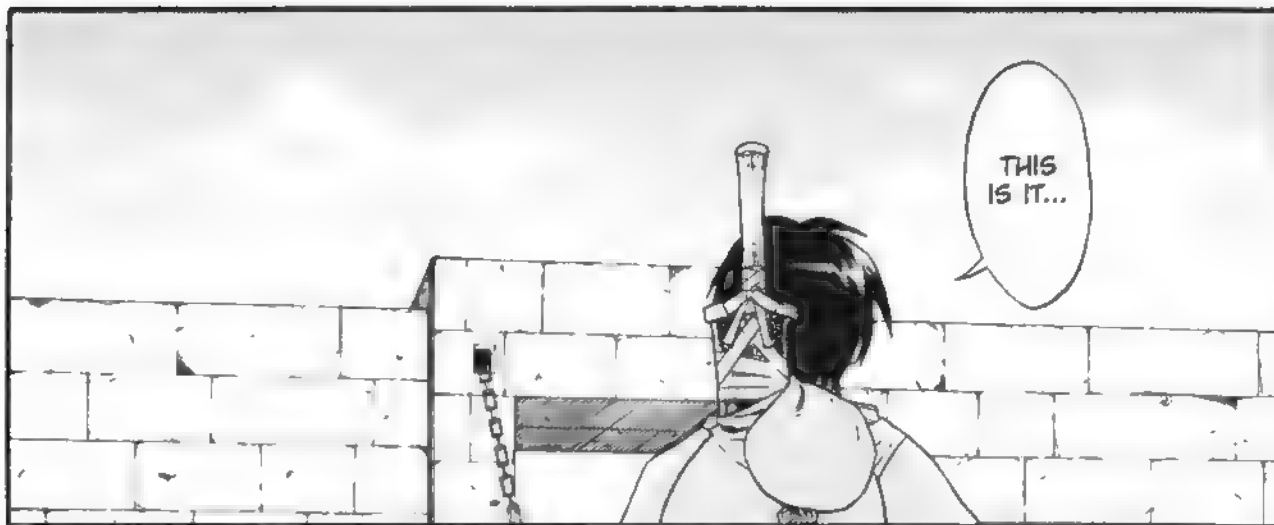


## Side Story: Blatt Meister (Blade Master) Part 1



*Side Story:*  
***Blatt Meister (Blade Master)***  
***Part 1***









GLENN.

AH, IT'S  
YOU  
AGAIN...



YOU!

WHO GAVE  
YOU PER-  
MISSION TO  
STOP!?



SHIT!

I'VE HAD  
ENOUGH.

THIS IS  
RIDICU-  
LOUS!!



WHEN WILL  
WE LEARN  
SOMETHING  
USEFUL!?

WE'VE  
COME  
FROM THE  
IMPERIAL  
MILITARY  
ACADEMY!

IT'S BEEN  
TWO WEEKS,  
AND ALL  
WE'VE DONE  
IS REVIEW  
THE SAME  
FORM, OVER  
AND OVER!!



YOU  
COW!!

DO YOU  
KNOW  
WHO I  
AM...?

LET'S  
KEEP  
PRAC-  
TICING,  
GLENN.



IN TRUTH,  
WE'VE HAD OUR  
FILL OF CAPITAL  
VISITORS WHO  
COME SEEKING  
ONLY TO BOOST  
THEIR REPUTA-  
TIONS.



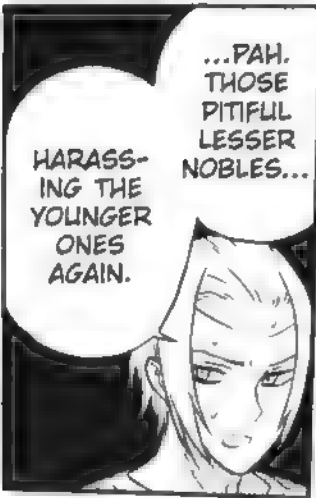
YOU'RE FREE  
TO LEAVE IF  
YOU'RE DIS-  
SATISFIED.



THAT WOMAN NEEDS TO FISH THE STICK OUT OF HER ASS!

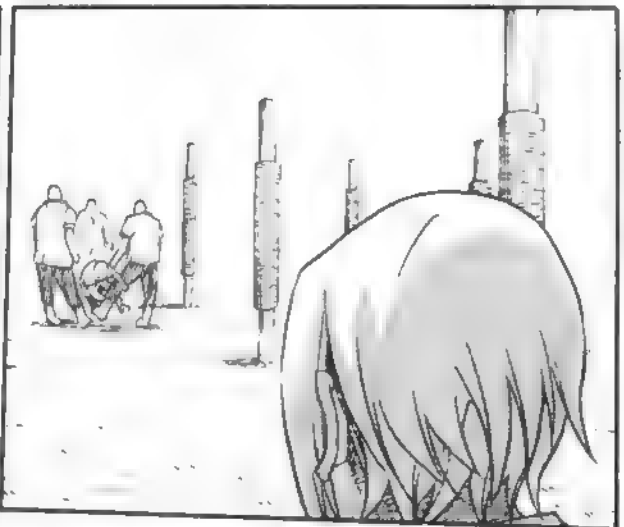


THIS IS OUR BEST CHANCE TO TRAIN UNDER BLATT MEISTER LUDIFT.



HARASSING THE YOUNGER ONES AGAIN.

...PAH. THOSE PITIFUL LESSER NOBLES...



WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS WRONG!

CUT IT OUT.



WHAT'S HE DOING...?

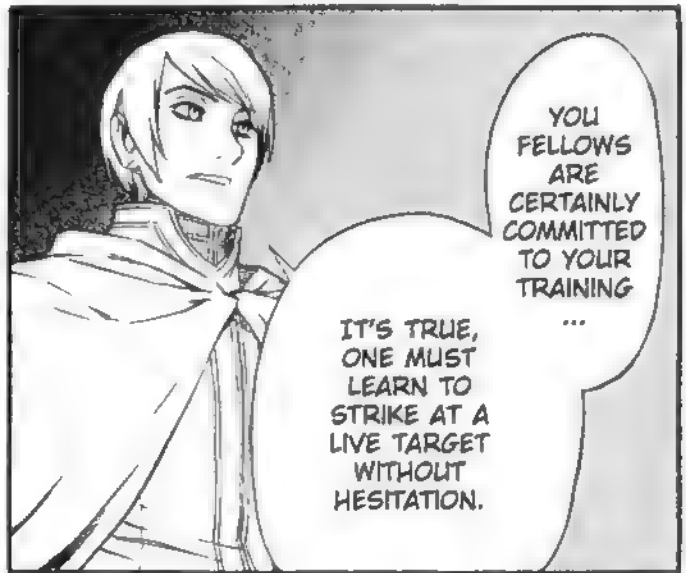
TEKLI TEKLI (STRIDE)

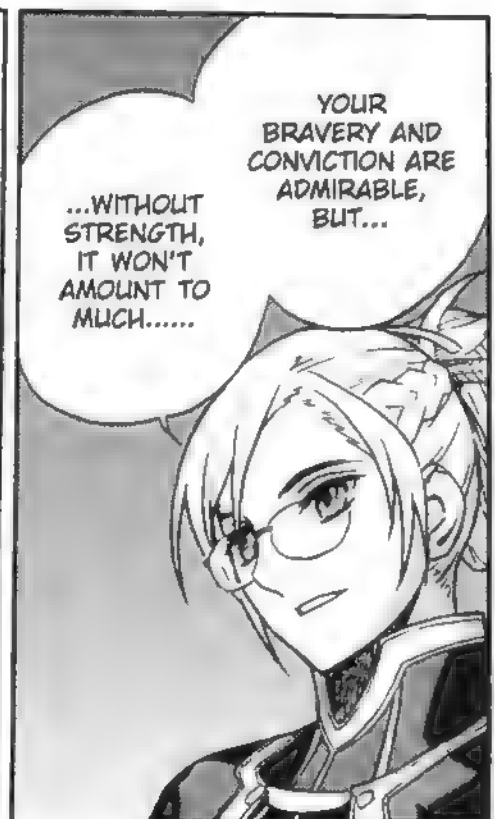
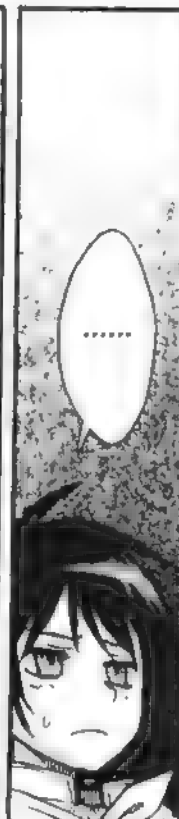
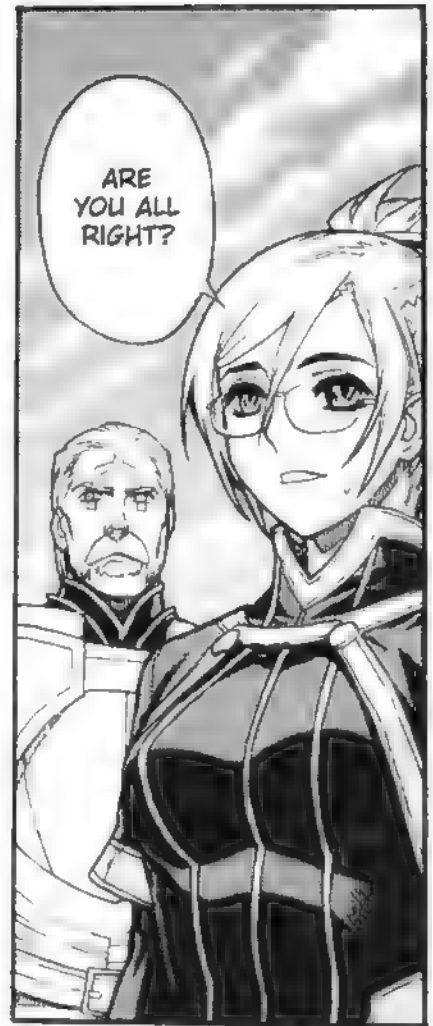












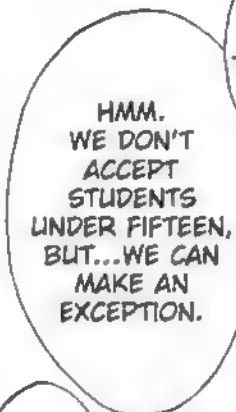


...SHOULD  
BE THE  
ONES  
LEARNING  
SWORDS-  
MANSHIP

THE  
TRUTH IS,  
PEOPLE  
LIKE YOU,  
MORE  
THAN  
ANY-  
ONE...



UM,  
WAIT.  
I'M  
JUST...



HMM.  
WE DON'T  
ACCEPT  
STUDENTS  
UNDER FIFTEEN,  
BUT...WE CAN  
MAKE AN  
EXCEPTION.



I'M  
TWELVE.



HOW  
OLD ARE  
YOU?



WATCH  
THEIR  
MOVE-  
MENTS.



BY  
PRACTICING  
THOSE EIGHT  
MOVES  
THOUSANDS AND  
THOUSANDS OF  
TIMES...

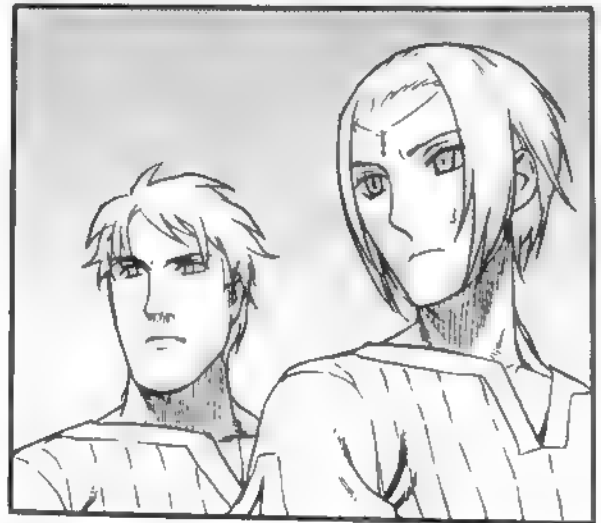
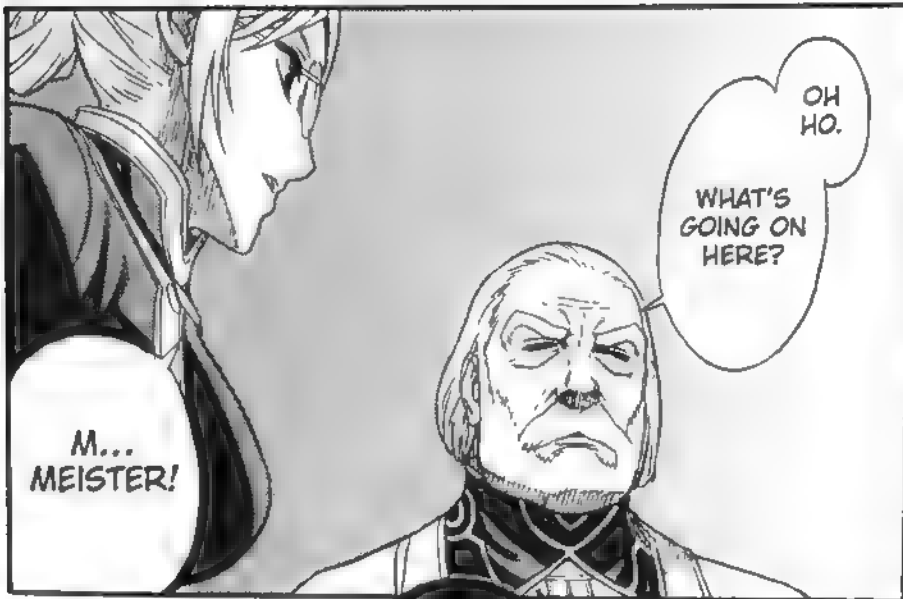
...THE  
BODY AND  
SWORD  
BECOME  
ONE.

THOSE  
ARE THE  
FUNDA-  
MENTALS  
OF OUR  
SCHOOL'S  
STYLE.

THE  
EIGHT  
BASIC  
FORMS.

















Side Story:  
**Blatt Meister (Blade-Master) Part 2**



THAT BABY  
WAS THIS  
BOY...  
ASCHERIIT.

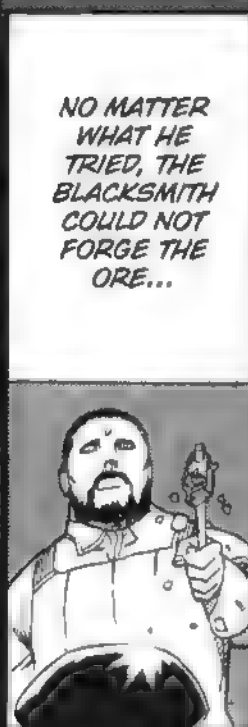
TWELVE  
YEARS  
AGO...

...A  
BLACKSMITH  
FRIEND OF  
MINE LIVING  
IN A  
NORTHERN  
MINING  
VILLAGE,  
KEINSRACH  
...

...TOOK  
IN AN  
ABANDONED  
BABY HE  
FOUND  
OUTSIDE OF  
TOWN.



ONE DAY,  
WHEN  
ASCHERIIT  
WAS FIVE  
YEARS  
OLD.....



NO MATTER  
WHAT HE  
TRIED, THE  
BLACKSMITH  
COULD NOT  
FORGE THE  
ORE...



...THE  
BABY WAS  
CLUTCHING  
A PIECE  
OF THAT  
MYSTERIOUS,  
IMPEN-  
ETRABLE ORE  
KNOWN AS  
"FAIRYTITE."

WHEN  
MY  
FRIEND  
FOUND  
HIM...

BC

NOW HE HAS  
INTERNALIZED  
THE EIGHT  
FORMS AFTER  
SEEING  
THEM ONLY  
ONCE...  
ALTHOUGH  
HIS BODY  
CANNOT YET  
PERFORM THE  
MOVEMENTS  
FLAWLESSLY...

...HE IS  
TALENTED.  
A GENIUS,  
EVEN.

...AND  
PRODUCED  
A SPLENDID  
BLADE FROM  
THAT VERY  
CHUNK OF  
FAIRYTITE!

...HE  
PICKED UP  
THE TOOLS  
OF THE  
FORGE,  
MIMICKING  
WHAT  
HE HAD  
OBSERVED...



...HAS  
GIVEN ME  
SUCH  
JOY IN MY  
TWILIGHT  
YEARS.

HELP-  
ING  
HIM  
GROW  
...

I VISIT THE  
BOY AT THE  
WORKSHOP  
WHENEVER I  
CAN, OFFERING  
MY SUPPORT.

IT'S  
ALMOST  
FIVE YEARS  
SINCE THE  
BLACK-  
SMITH  
ASKED  
ME...



I WAS  
HOPING  
WE MIGHT  
DISCUSS  
THE  
REASON  
WE'VE  
COME  
HERE...



THE  
SWORD HE  
BROUGHT ME  
TODAY, FOR  
INSTANCE—

MEIS-  
TER!!

HIS SKILL  
IMPROVES  
DAY BY  
DAY!  
IT'S AS-  
TOUND-  
ING!



WE WILL  
REMAIN  
HERE FOR  
A TIME.

WE DIDN'T  
EXPECT OUR  
DISCUSSIONS TO  
CONCLUDE IN LESS  
THAN A DAY OR  
TWO, MEISTER.



LET US  
TALK  
TOMOR-  
ROW...

AH, MY  
APOLOGIES.  
THE DAY  
GROWS  
LATE...

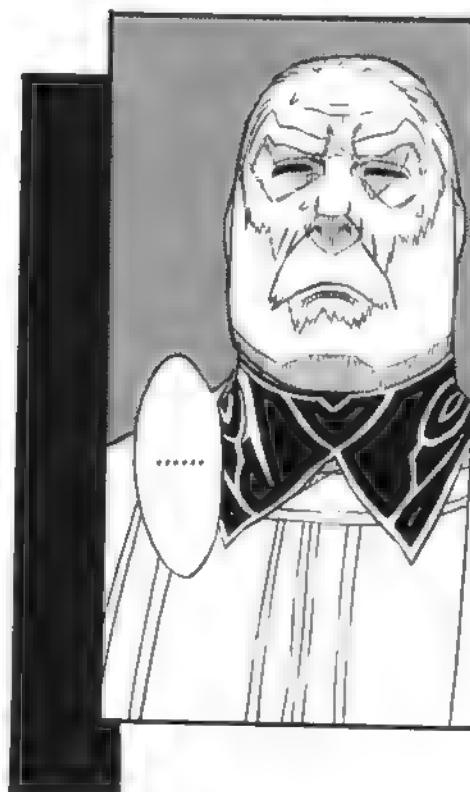
AHEM!

AHEM!

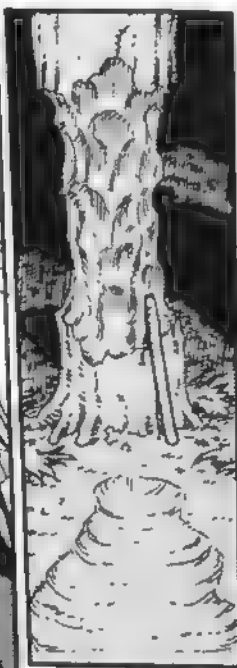
VERY  
WELL.

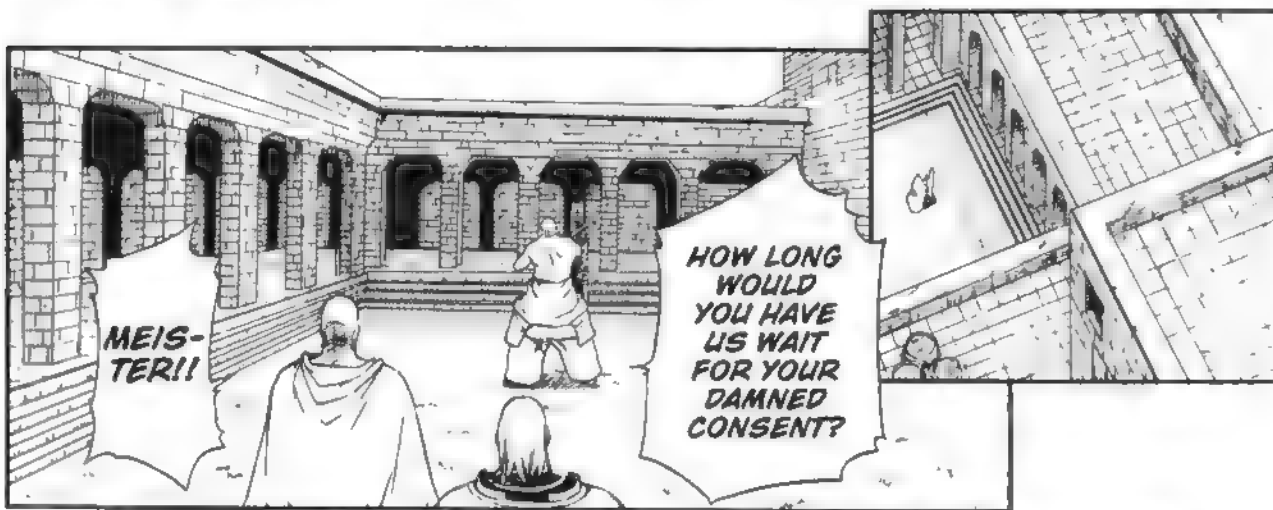


THREE  
MONTHS  
LATER.





















I'M GOING TO KILL THIS SENILE OLD FOOL...





VERY  
WELL,  
THEN...

I'LL  
FINISH OFF  
THIS DOD-  
DERING  
FOOL...

...AND  
YOU CAN  
FOLLOW HIM  
STRAIGHT  
TO HELL....!!



HMPH!!

SO THE  
SWORD-  
SMITH'S  
BRAT...

...BEARS  
A BLADE  
AGAINST  
BLATT  
MEISTER  
TOMBARL!?



OLD  
MAN!!!

NGH  
!!!

GIRL  
(TWIST)



HIYA-  
AAA-  
AAH  
!!!

KATA  
(SHAKE)

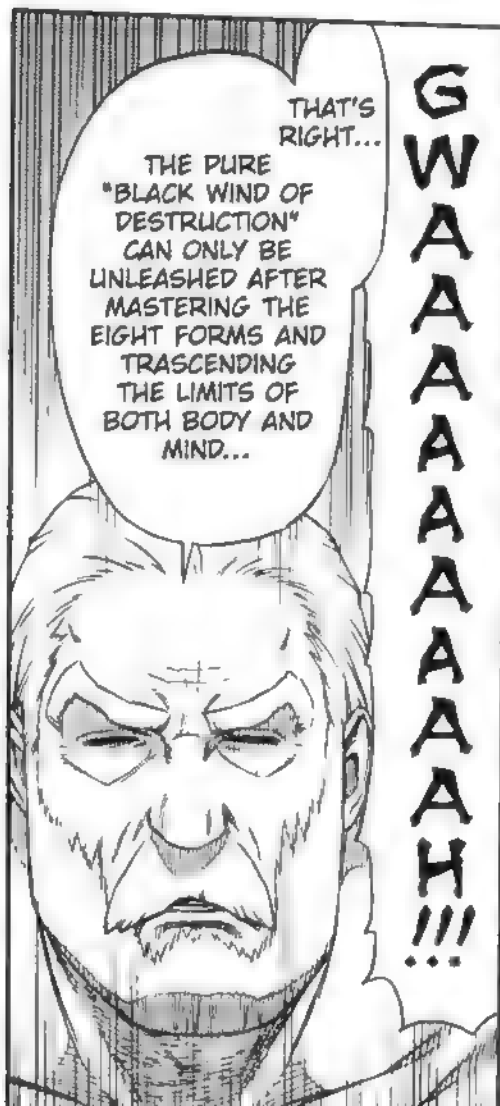
H...

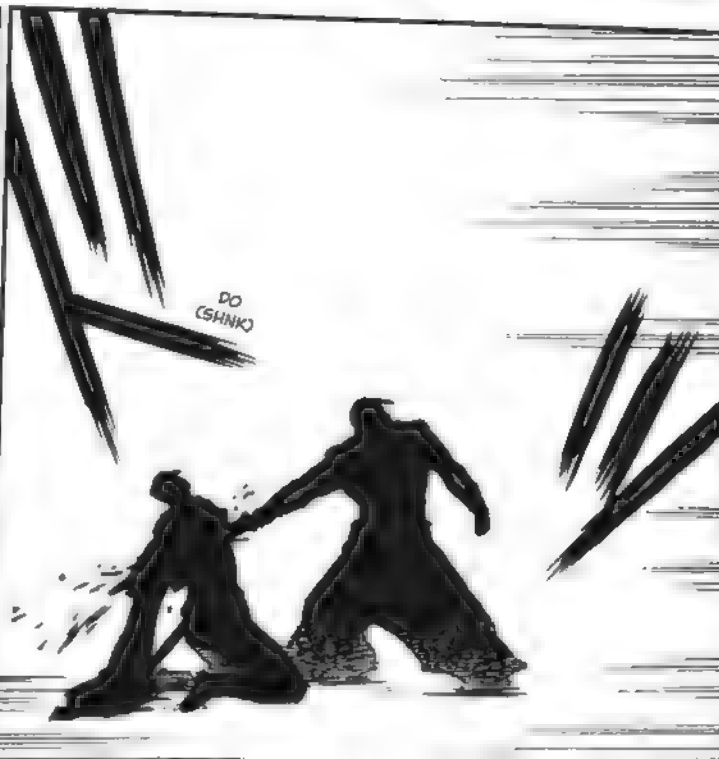
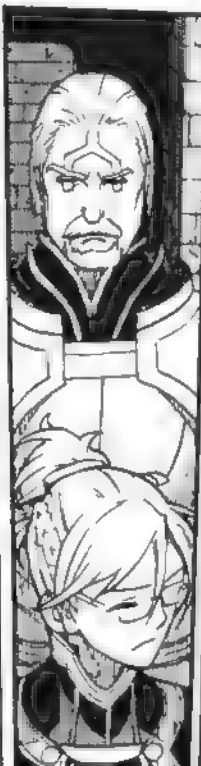
KATA

H- KATA











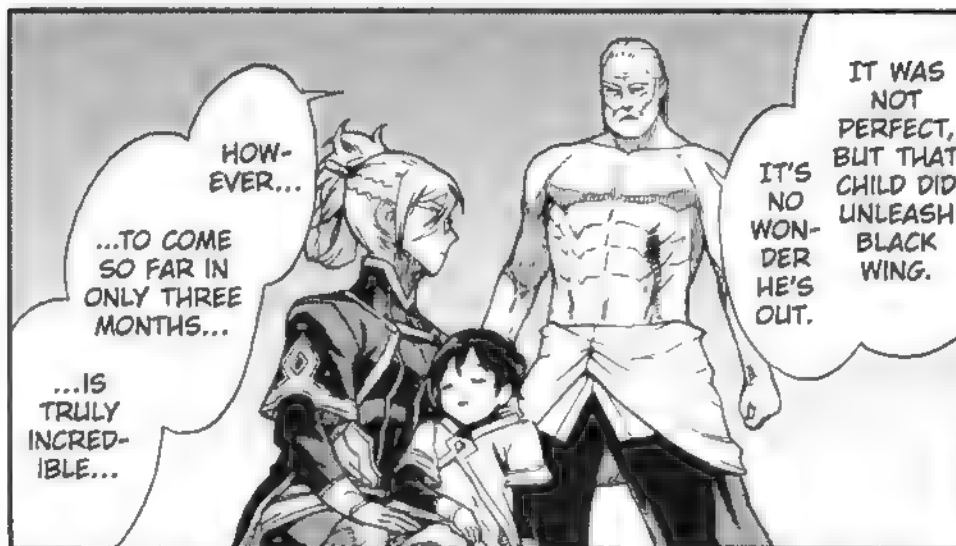
IT  
WOULD  
PREY ON  
MY WEAK  
MIND.



THAT IS WHY  
I HAVE LIVED  
SO REMOVED  
FROM THE  
CAPITAL.

LUSTING  
AFTER  
TITLES AND  
COMMENDA-  
TIONS CLOUDS  
THE HEART,  
PRECLUDING  
MASTERY OF  
BLACK WING.

THERE,  
THE WEIGHT  
AND SELF-  
IMPORTANCE  
OF THE BLATT  
MEISTER TITLE  
WOULD TAKE  
OVER...



HOW-  
EVER...

...TO COME  
SO FAR IN  
ONLY THREE  
MONTHS...

...IS  
TRULY  
INCRED-  
IBLE...

IT WAS  
NOT  
PERFECT,  
BUT THAT  
CHILD DID  
UNLEASH  
BLACK  
WING.  
IT'S NO  
WON-  
DER  
HE'S  
OUT.



HE'S  
OUT  
COLD  
...



...WILL  
ONLY  
BECOME  
STRON-  
GER.

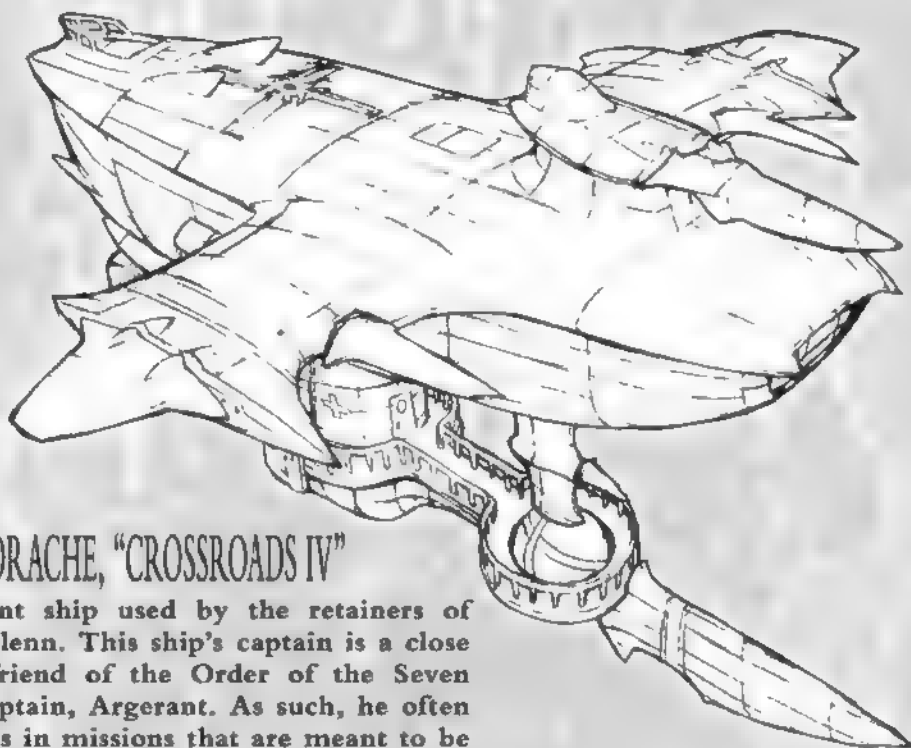
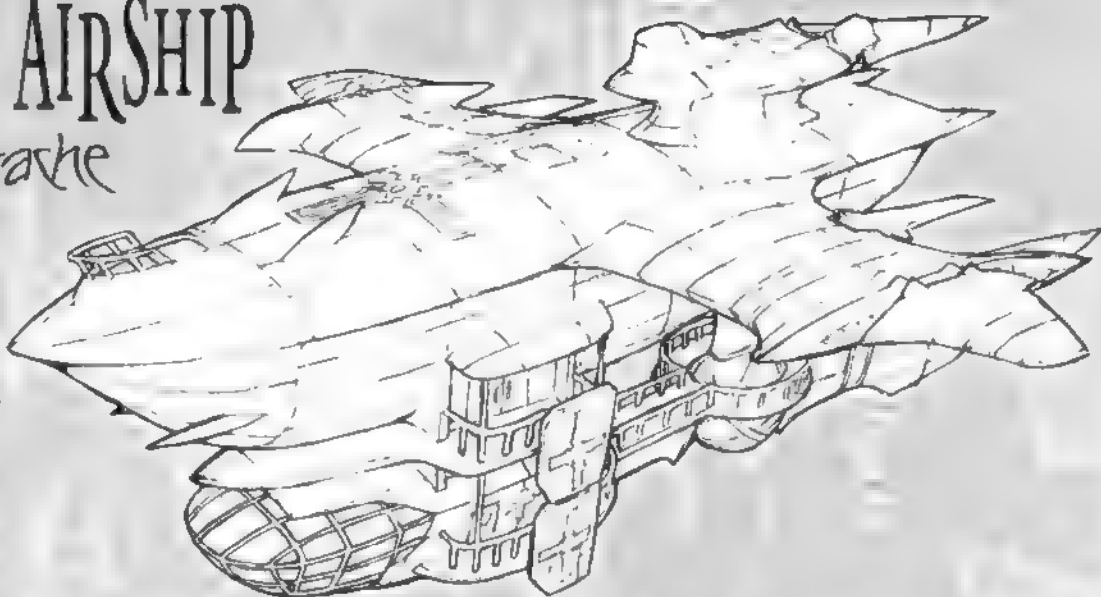
THIS  
BOY...



# DRAGON AIRSHIP

## Maschinendrache

An airship whose flight is powered by a drachestein. During the war with the Land of Shadows—Wischtech—mercenary forces and prominent lords filled the sky with the airships. After the war, however, nearly all were either stored away or dismantled entirely. In the current era, permission from the Imperial Minister of Dragon Affairs is necessary to construct, possess, or operate a maschinendrache for combat purposes.



### MASCHINENDRACHE, "CROSSROADS IV"

A merchant ship used by the retainers of Marquis Glenn. This ship's captain is a close personal friend of the Order of the Seven Lances' captain, Argerant. As such, he often participates in missions that are meant to be kept secret from the general public.

A stone imbued with the power of levitation. Wild dragons habitually store these stones in their gullets, which in turn allows them to fly. Because of this, humans used to harvest the stones from the dragons, giving them the name "drachestein." In present times, however, the stones are mined directly from sources within the earth.

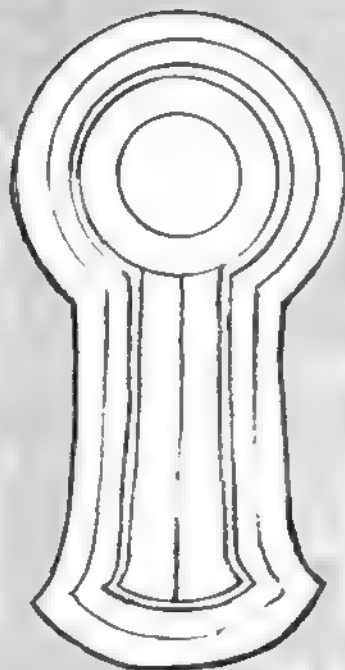
## DRAGON STONE *Drachestein*



# MARQUIS GLENN'S CREST

The crest worn by Marquis Glenn and his loyal followers in the Order of the Seven Lances.

Created for Glenn at the end of the great war, this crest doesn't have a very long history, but it is already one of the more well-known and easily-recognized crests among the people of the empire.



## CRESTS

*Sinnbild*

A crest granted to generations of Blatt Meisters by the emperor. The previous Blatt Meister, Ludift, returned the crest upon leaving the imperial capital. There is currently no successor to this crest.

It was once regarded with respect, but ever since Ascheriit, who was meant to be the next Blatt Meister, betrayed the empire, the people have viewed it as a bad omen.



## BLACK WING & SWORD CREST



# ORDER OF THE SEVEN SPEARS

*Sieben Speißen Orden*

A unit of warriors serving under Marquis Glenn, one of the Seven Heroes. Nowadays they are regarded less as an official unit of knights and more as Marquis Glenn's private army. It is said that they are the kingdom's strongest military force.

The unit was founded in 3988 A.D. when the current captain, Argerant, and a number of his followers called upon Marquis Glenn, whose domain had recently been relocated by the emperor. Glenn invited them into his employ.

There is no formal ranking system within the Order, but divisions do exist. There is the elite brigade that guards Marquis Glenn (about twenty members), the main brigade (about fifty members), and the knights-in-training (about eighty members). It is expected that once the unit receives official recognition from the imperial capital, these three divisions will remain largely intact and turned into formal ranks.

The Order's ranks have swelled as of late, thanks to an influx of young members who either look up to Marquis Glenn or the Order itself, whose noble actions in warring regions throughout the empire have won the hearts and minds of the people.

However, now that twenty years have passed since the end of the great war, there are many lords and ministers in the capital who feel uneasy about Marquis Glenn's quickly-expanding military force, especially considering that his own domain is so close to the capital and so far removed from Wischtech.

*Liebeblatt*





G N A A A H !!

Deep In the Forest of Death at the edge of the Empire  
3972 A.D. (Anno Donatio)



WHY  
WOULD  
YOU...?

WHY  
...?

AREN'T  
WE.....

HUFF

HUFF

...SUP-  
POSED  
TO BE  
COM-  
RADES  
...!?



GYA-  
HA-HA-  
HA-HA!  
WELL,  
LOOKIT  
THAT!

GLENN  
GOT HIS  
EYE!

A SECOND-  
RATE  
SWORDSMAN  
LIKE GLENN  
TOOK DOWN  
THE EMPIRE'S  
GREATEST  
SWORDSMAN? IT'S  
ALL OVER  
NOW!!

ZAAAAA  
CFSHHHH

*Durch Bruch*  
*(Break Through)*

◇I◇

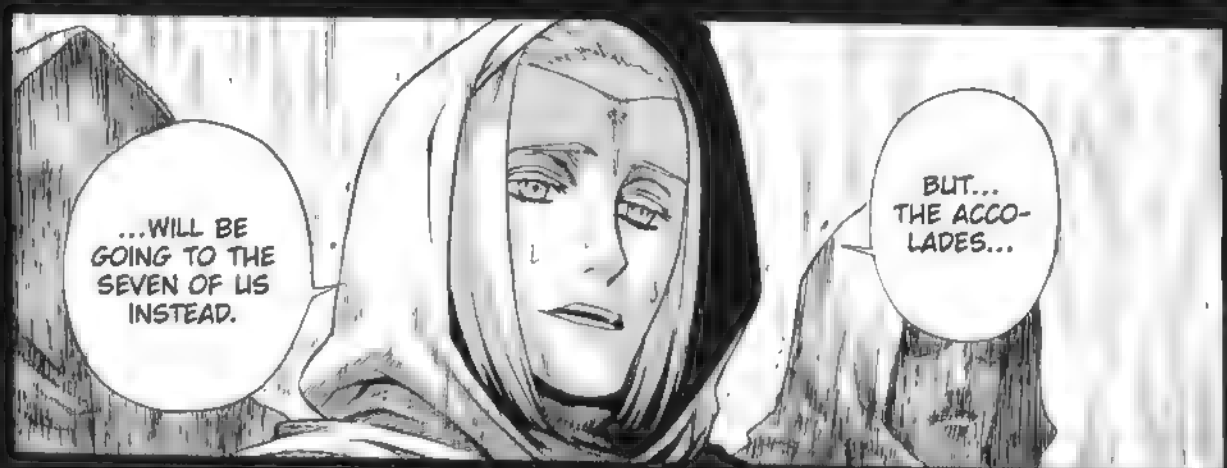




IT'S  
INCREDIBLE  
THAT **THE**  
**FOUR** OF  
YOU...

...MANAGED  
THIS AWFUL  
BUSINESS  
ALL ON  
YOUR OWN.

YOU  
FOUGHT  
WELL.



...WILL BE  
GOING TO THE  
SEVEN OF US  
INSTEAD.

BUT...  
THE ACCO-  
LADES...

Four  
betrayed  
the  
emperor  
and were  
slain  
for their  
crime.

Three  
perished  
on the  
journey.

...the  
emperor  
dispatched  
fourteen  
young  
warriors  
armed  
with holy  
lances.

In order to  
stave off  
an invasion  
from the  
inhabitants  
of the  
bordering  
Wisch-  
tech...

THAT'S  
JUST  
THE  
WAY IT  
IS...

DO US  
A KIND-  
NESS...  
AND DIE.



...of the  
Seven Heroes'  
era of glory.

That  
moment...

...heralded the  
beginning...







...I'LL  
NEVER...  
FORGIVE  
YOU...

YOU  
BAS-  
TARDS  
...

NOT  
ONE OF  
YOU...!!!

AND  
TOGETHER,  
WE WILL  
RETURN  
HOME!

...WILL  
FULFILL THIS  
MISSION.

WE'LL  
SURVIVE.

THE  
FOURTEEN  
OF US...

FINISH  
HIM  
OFF!!

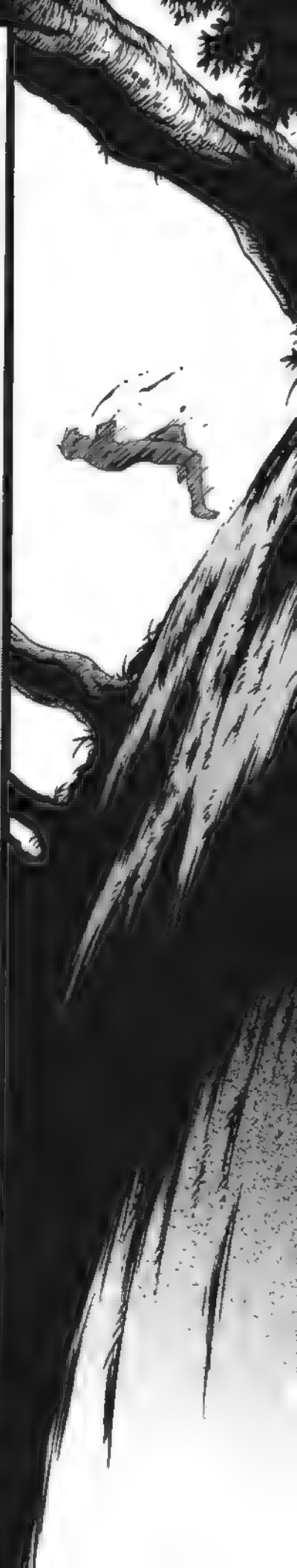
KILL  
HIM!





The Seven  
Heroes  
returned  
trium-  
phantly...

...In the  
winter of  
3972 A.D.



The great  
deeds of the  
Seven Heroes  
brought  
about an age  
of unparalleled  
peace and  
prosperity.

The weary  
citizens of the  
empire, and  
the war-torn  
earth itself,  
breathed a  
collective sigh  
of relief.

The era of  
seemingly  
endless  
war with  
Wischtech  
was over.



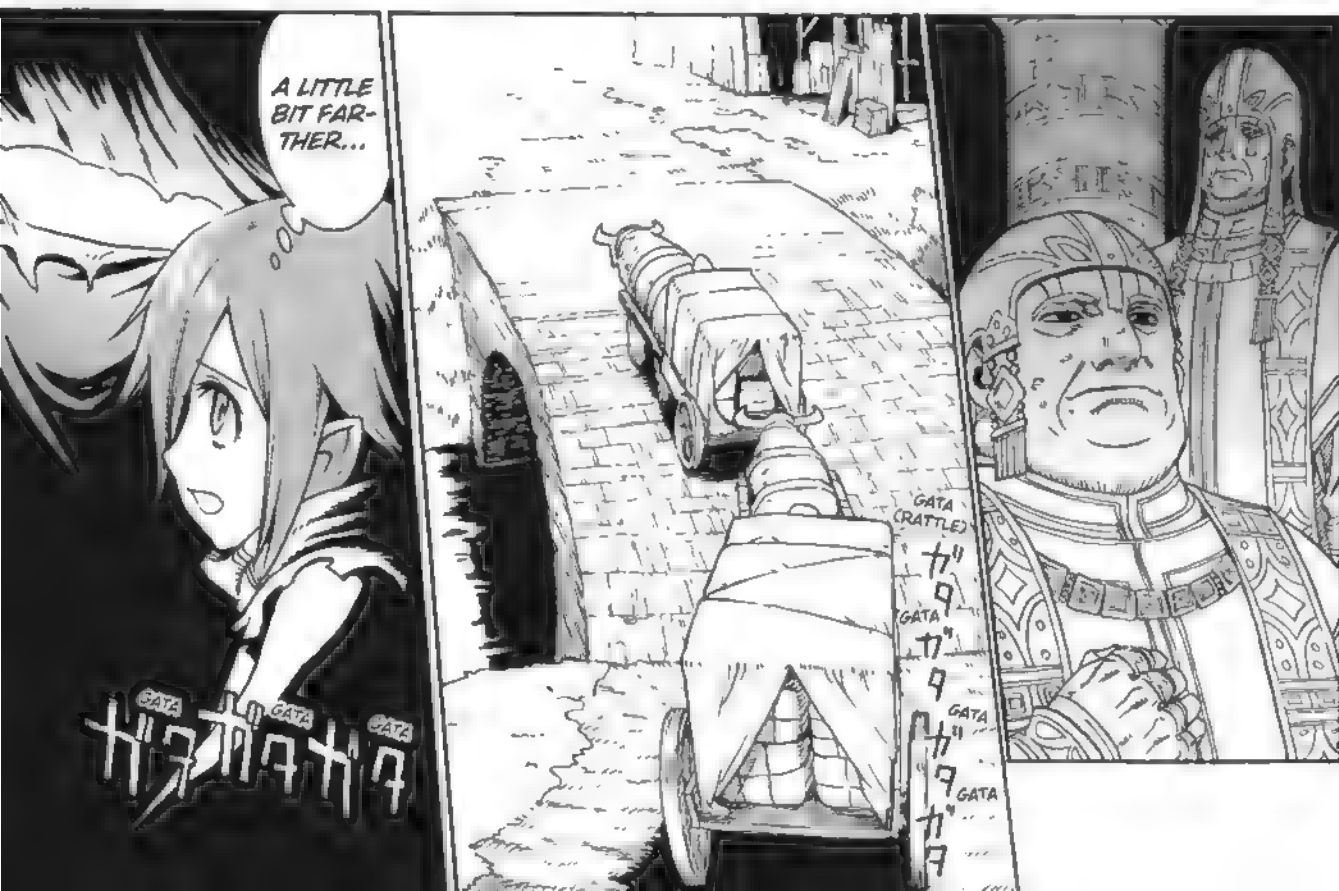
However...



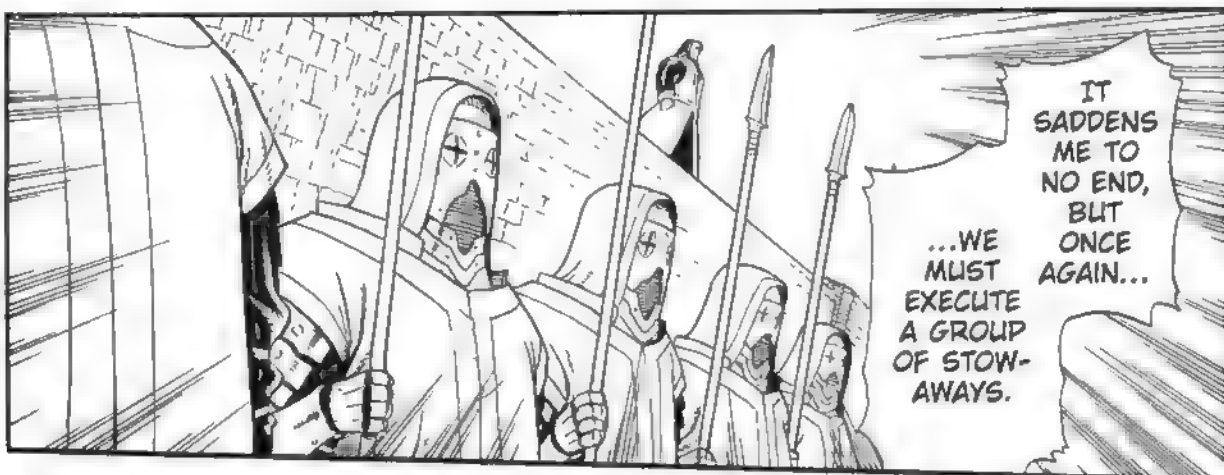
...an ill-  
omened  
shadow  
has  
begun to  
stir.

...Even in  
the twenty  
years  
of calm  
since...





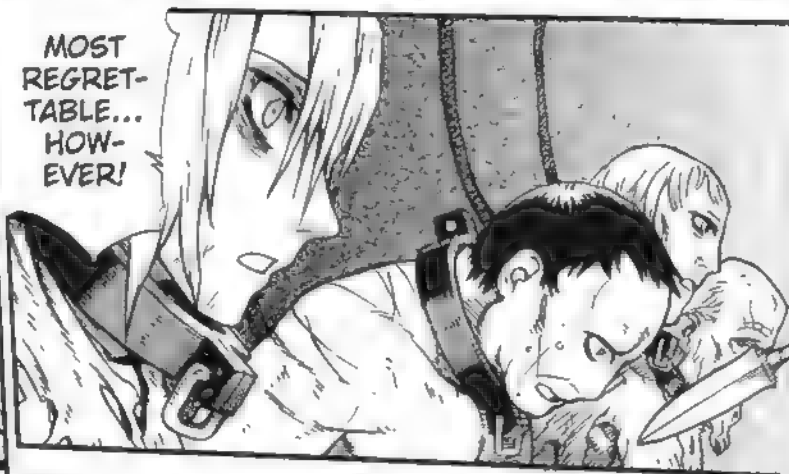




IT  
SADDENS  
ME TO  
NO END,  
BUT  
ONCE  
AGAIN...  
...WE  
MUST  
EXECUTE  
A GROUP  
OF STOW-  
AWAYS.



MOST  
REGRET-  
TABLE...  
HOW-  
EVER!



LANDGRAVE  
SCHTEMWÖLECH,  
ONE OF THE  
SEVEN HEROES,  
HAS TASKED US  
WITH GUARDING  
THE BORDER!

SO WE  
MUST  
CHOKE  
BACK OUR  
TEARS AND  
PERFORM  
OUR DUTY!!









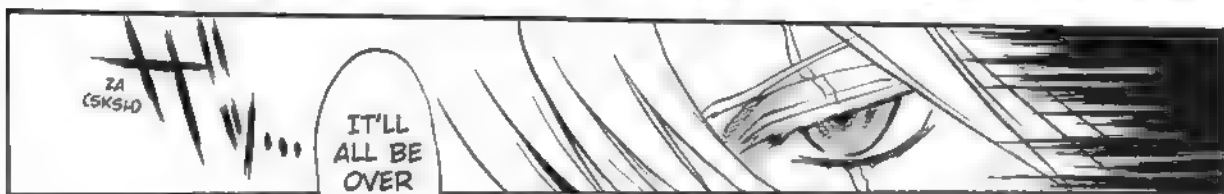
.....I'M  
HER  
BROTHER.

MAKE  
PREPA-  
RATIONS  
FOR A  
DOUBLE  
EXECU-  
TION!!

HMPH!!

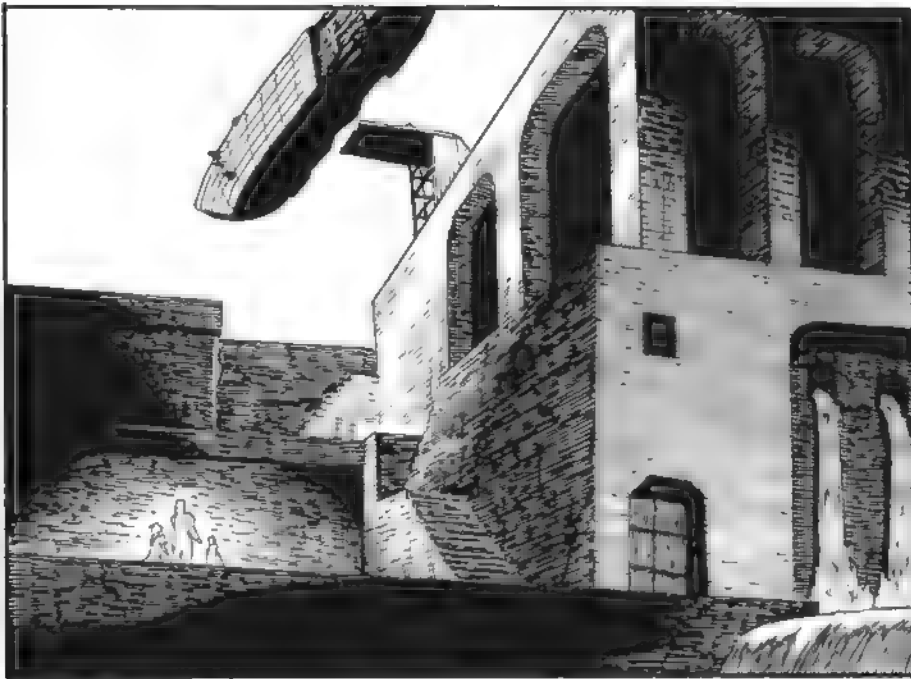
YOU'RE  
SIBLINGS?  
REALLY?  
YOU  
LOOK  
NOTHING  
ALIKE.

WE HAVE  
DIFFERENT  
MOTHERS,  
YOU SEE.



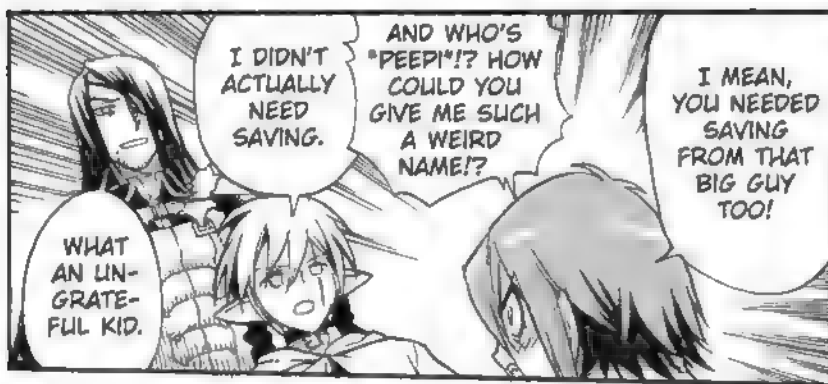


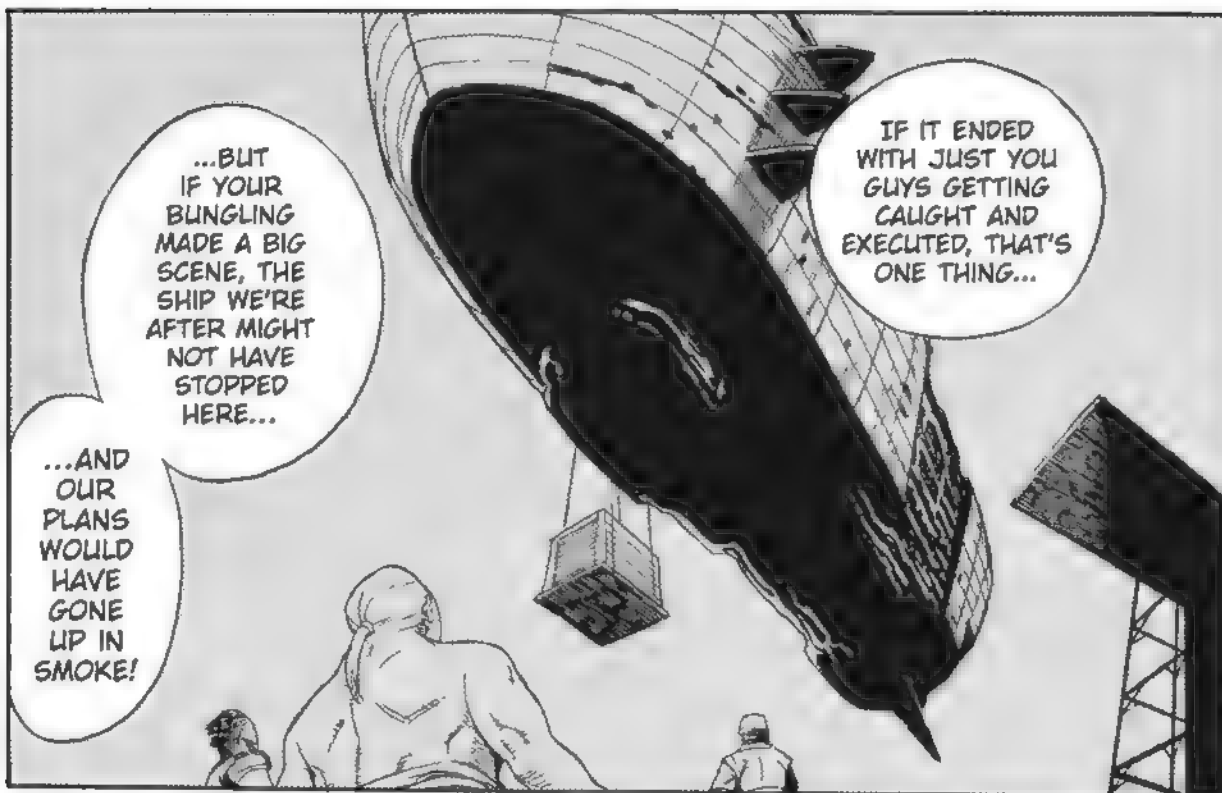




DON'T  
MAKE ME  
REPEAT  
MYSELF!







...BUT  
IF YOUR  
BUNGLING  
MADE A BIG  
SCENE, THE  
SHIP WE'RE  
AFTER MIGHT  
NOT HAVE  
STOPPED  
HERE...

IF IT ENDED  
WITH JUST YOU  
GUYS GETTING  
CAUGHT AND  
EXECUTED, THAT'S  
ONE THING...

...AND  
OUR  
PLANS  
WOULD  
HAVE  
GONE  
UP IN  
SMOKE!



I CALL  
BRATS  
LIKE YOU  
"HERO  
KIDS."

YOU'RE  
TRYING TO  
GET TO THE  
OTHER SIDE  
'COS YOU'RE  
A FAN OF  
THE SEVEN  
HEROES,  
RIGHT?



GOT IT,  
**HERO  
KID!**?



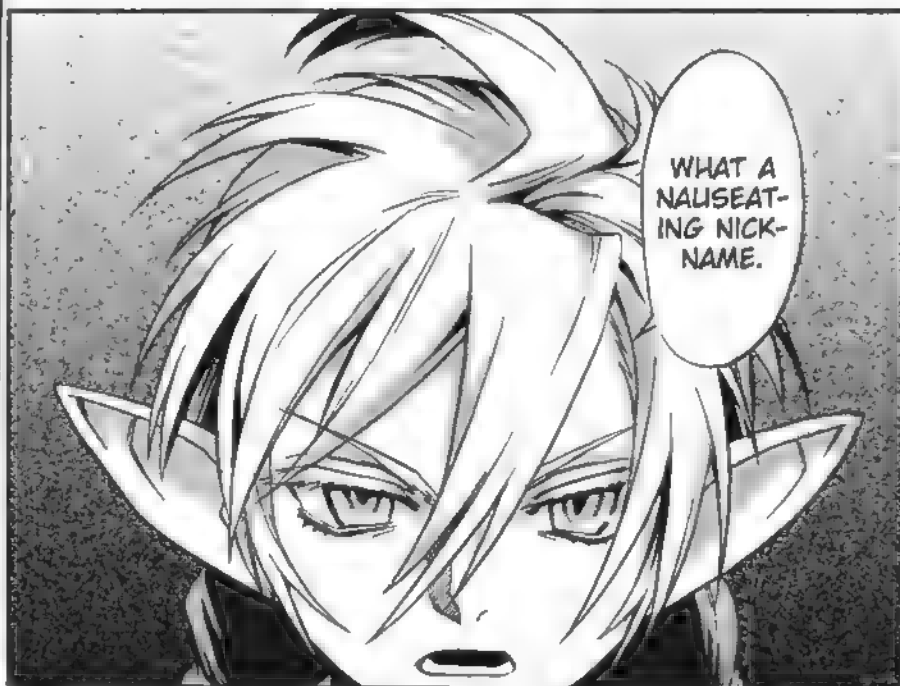
HELL, YOU  
OWE YOUR  
WHOLE DAMN  
PEACEFUL  
EXISTENCE TO  
THE DEEDS  
OF THE  
HEROES.

BESIDES  
WHICH, IN  
SPITE OF  
BEING A  
SHRIMP, YOU  
GO AROUND  
PLAYING  
HERO...

"HERO  
KID"?  
WHAT'S  
THAT SUP-  
POSED TO  
MEAN?



?



WHAT A  
NAUSEAT-  
ING NICK-  
NAME.



WAIT.

GOOD  
LUCK.

...ANYWAY,  
IF YOU'RE  
LOOKING TO  
STAY ALIVE,  
HEAD BACK  
WHERE  
YOU CAME  
FROM.



JUST GO  
HOME AND  
TEND YOUR  
FIELDS!

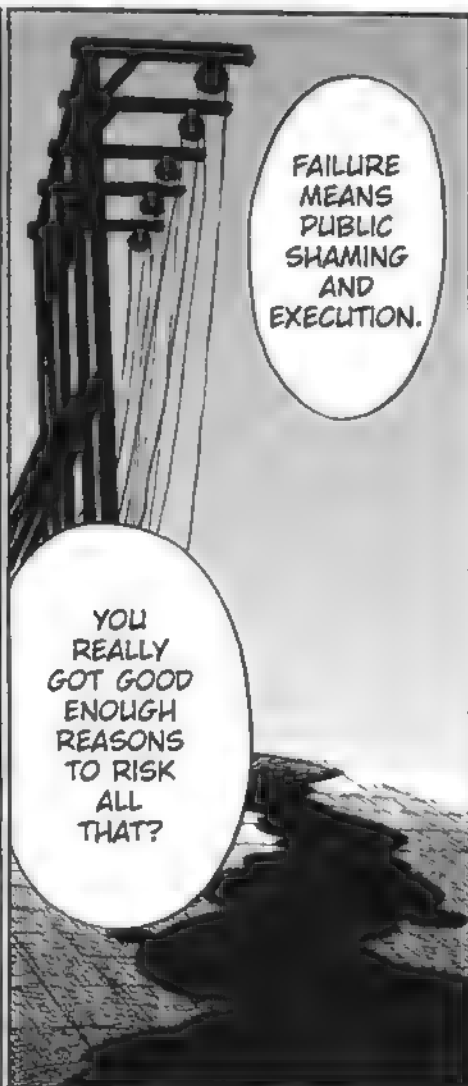
AND WHY  
SHOULD  
I TELL  
YOU?

WHERE  
ARE  
THEY?

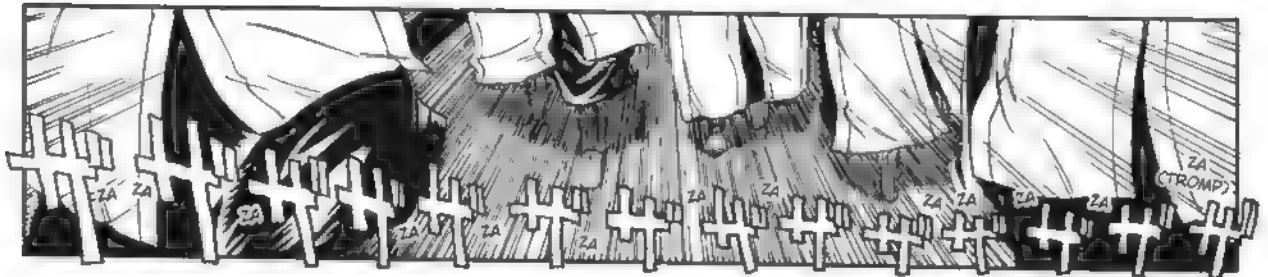
YOU  
MENTIONED  
SMUGGLERS.

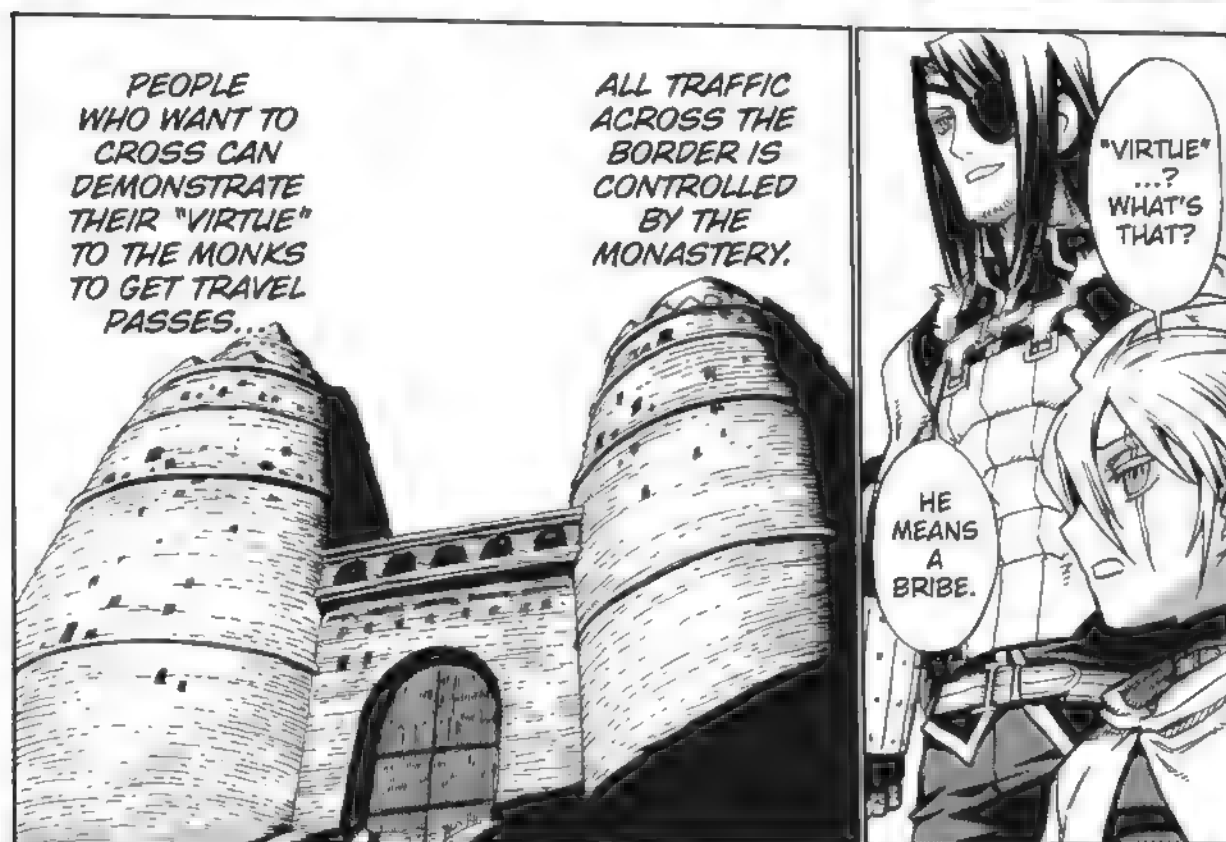
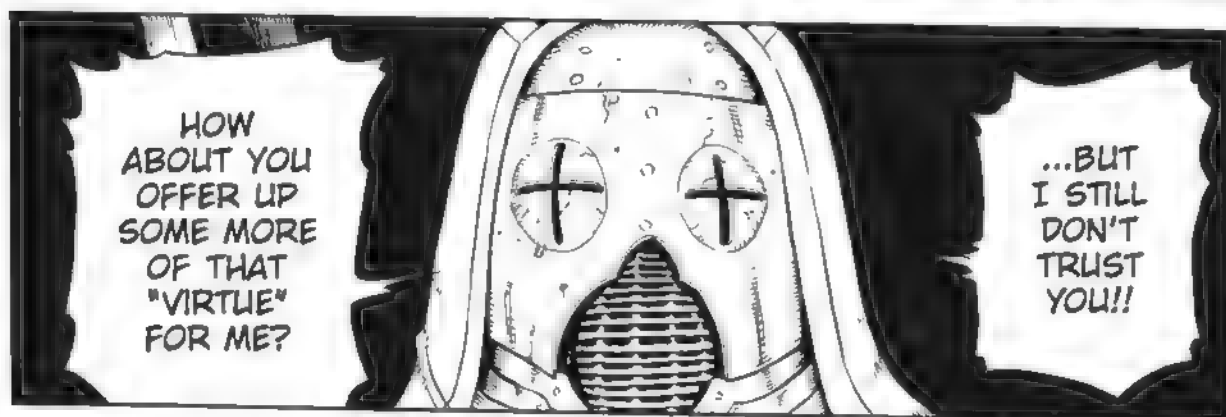




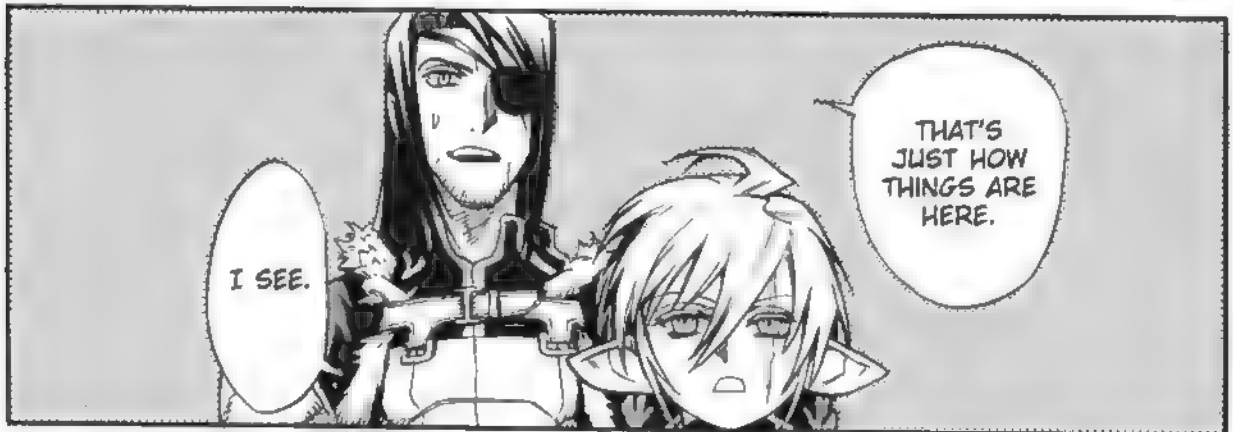
















COULD  
HE  
BE...?

NO...  
THERE'S  
NO WAY...

WH...

...WHAT  
IS THIS  
KID!?

CUT IN  
TWO WITH  
A SINGLE  
BLOW!!

YOU DARE  
TURN YOUR  
SWORD  
AGAINST THE  
MONASTERY!?!?

EEEEEE...



BUT  
STILL...

TEAR  
HIM TO  
SHREDS  
!!!

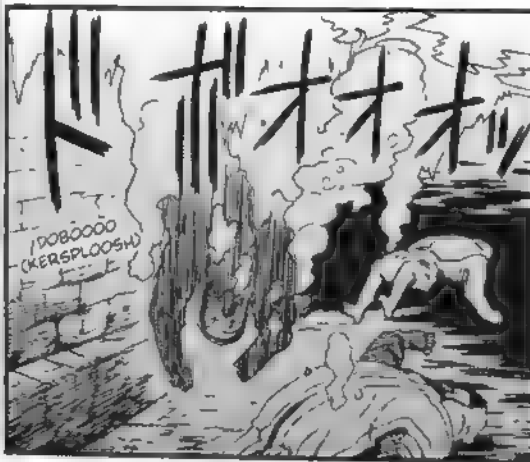
...THERE'S  
NO WAY  
I'D HAVE  
TAKEN  
HIM BY  
SURPRISE  
BACK AT  
THE PORT.

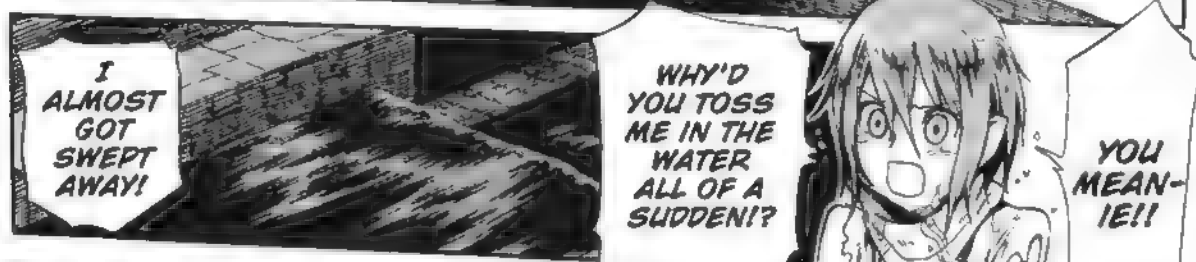
IF THE  
RUMORS  
ARE  
TRUE...  
IF THIS  
GUY WAS  
HIM...

HOW IS  
THIS KID SO  
STUPIDLY  
STRONG...!!!?













IT'S  
THE RUINS  
OF AN OLD  
UNDERGROUND  
WISCHTECH  
FORTRESS.

ANYONE  
HOPING TO  
REACH THE  
SEVEN HEROES'  
DOMAIN LIVES  
DOWN HERE.

I NEVER  
KNEW THIS  
BIG PLACE  
WAS UNDER  
THE CITY...



ALMOST  
THERE  
NOW.

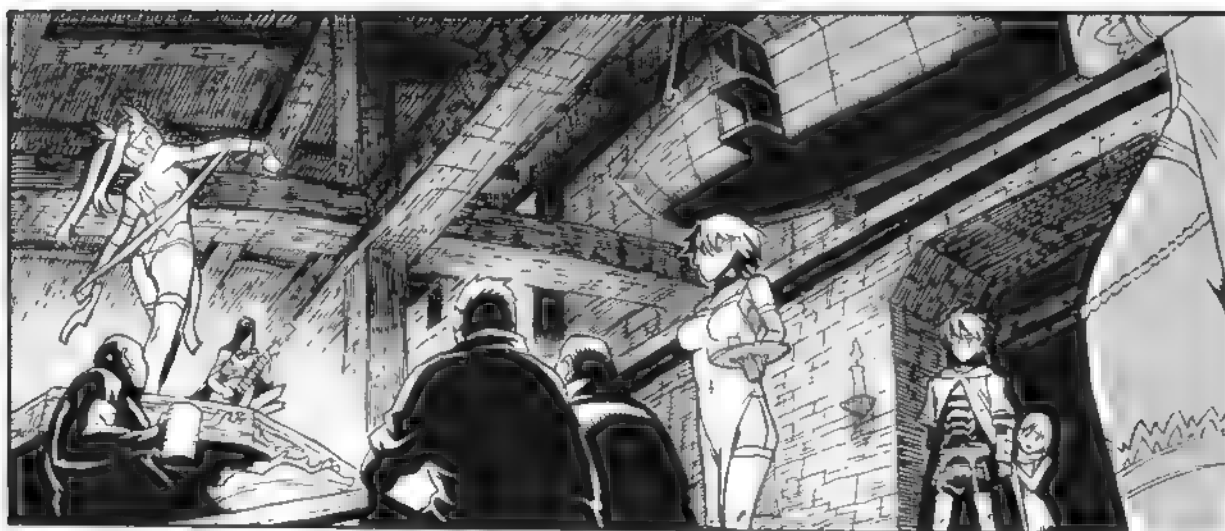
HERE  
WE GO.  
IT'S  
THIS  
BAR.



JUST  
TAKE A  
SEAT AND  
KEEP YOUR  
HEAD DOWN  
TILL I'M  
BACK.

I'LL  
GO TALK  
TO THE  
OWNER.



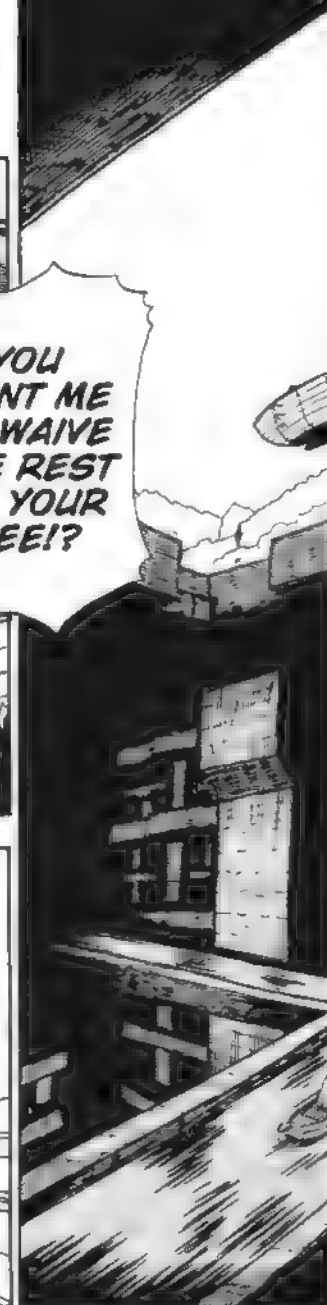
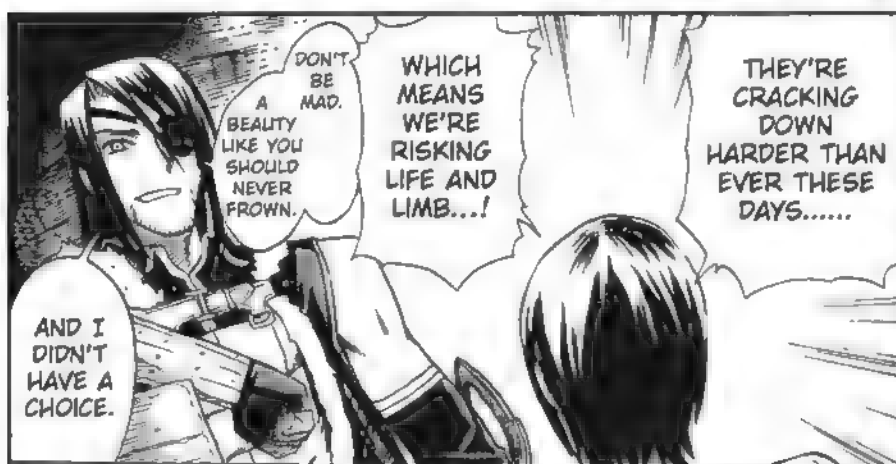




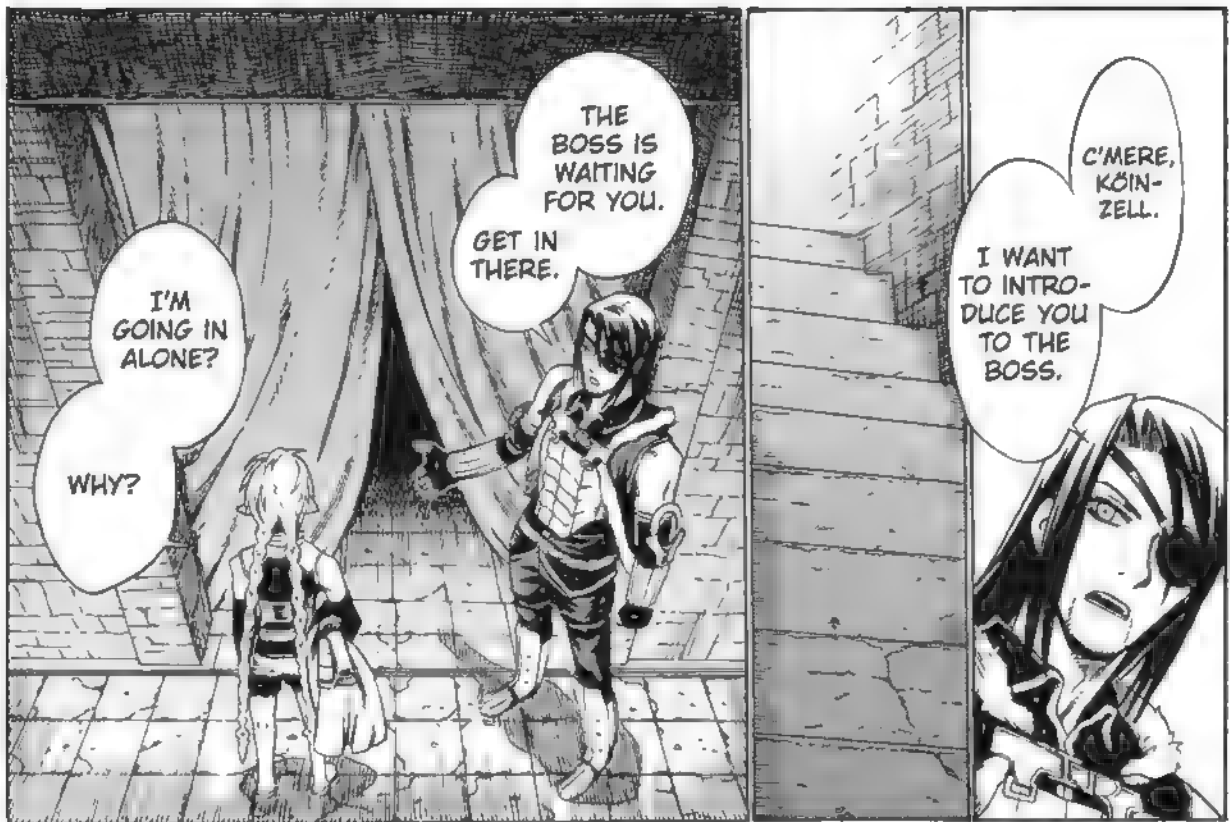












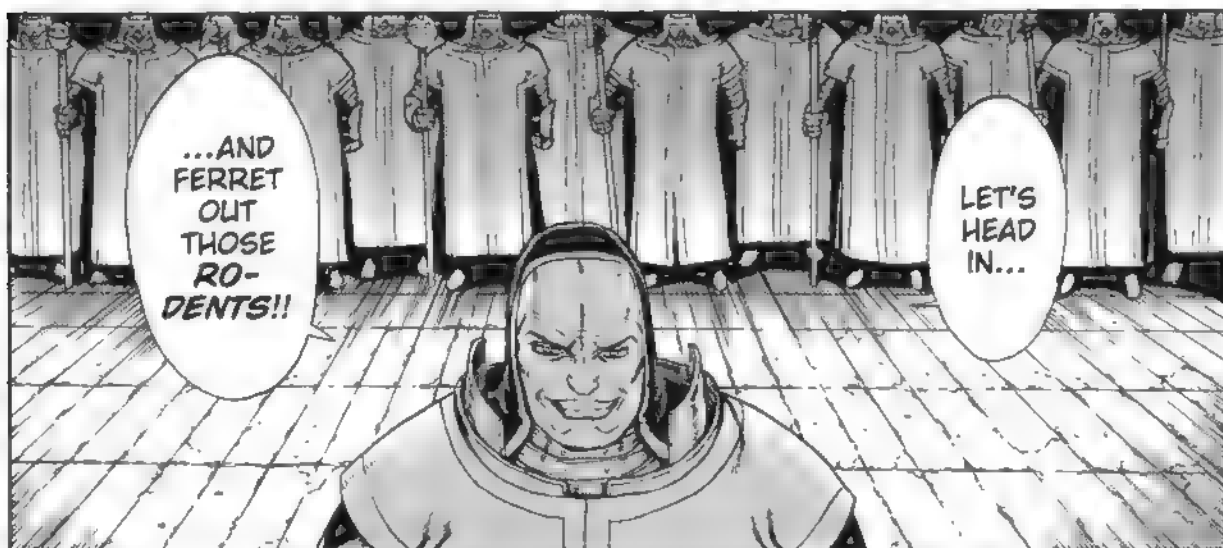






ARE YOU  
PREPARED,  
MEN?

NOW,  
THEN.....



...AND  
FERRET  
OUT  
THOSE  
RO-  
DENTS!!

LET'S  
HEAD  
IN...



I JUST  
WANTED  
TO HAVE  
SOME  
FUN WITH  
YOU.....

...YOU  
CERTAINLY  
ARE PERCEP-  
TIVE FOR A  
CUTE LITTLE  
"HERO KID."

YOU...



WHY'D YOU  
SNEAK UP  
ON ME LIKE  
THAT!?

KAH  
HAH!

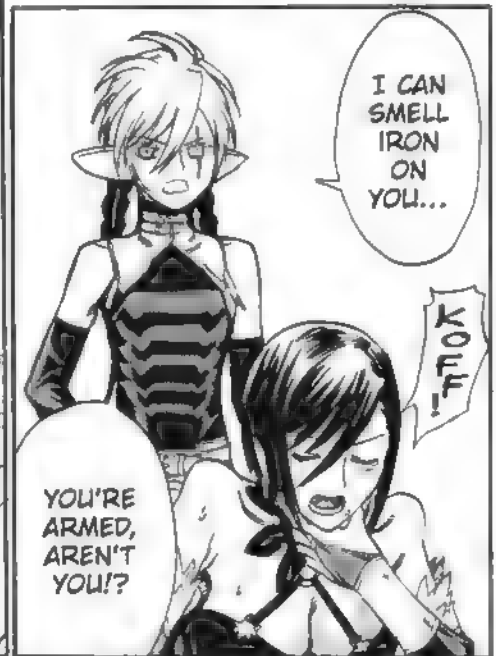
E  
E  
E  
...



WANT ME TO STRIP DOWN AND REASSURE YOU?

JUST A DAGGER FOR MY OWN PROTECTION.

WELL, YES...



I CAN SMELL IRON ON YOU...

YOU...

YOU'RE ARMED, AREN'T YOU!?



NOTHING ABOUT SELLING ME OFF!

ALL HE TOLD ME WAS THAT HE NEEDED MY SWORD ON HIS SIDE.



DIDN'T WIED TELL YOU?

THE REST OF WHAT HE OWES, ALONG WITH THE FEE FOR YOU AND THE GIRL...

...WILL BE PAID WITH YOUR BODY.



..... WONDER WHY.

KÖINZELL'S STILL NOT BACK.

GIVE ME WHAT I WANT TONIGHT, AND I'LL BE HAPPY TO SEND YOU TO THE OTHER SIDE.



IF  
THAT'S  
TRUE  
...

I THOUGHT  
YOU WANTED  
TO REACH  
THE OTHER  
SIDE!



JUST  
GET IT  
OVER  
WITH!

SHUT  
UP.

IT'S NO  
FUN IF  
YOU'RE  
SULKING.

COME  
ON...



WITH  
THAT  
SORT  
OF LAX  
ATTI-  
TUDE...

WHAT  
A STUB-  
BORN  
KID.....



I'LL GET  
THERE ON  
MY OWN  
SOMEHOW.







WE  
SMUGGLERS  
HAVE OUR  
HANDS FULL.  
SO DOES THE  
MONASTERY,  
IN THEIR  
TIRELESS  
EFFORTS TO  
STOP US.

IN LIGHT OF  
THIS, COUNTLESS  
TRAVELERS ARE  
MAKING A "SEVEN  
HEROES PILGRIMAGE."  
AND SO ARE THE  
MERCHANTS EAGER  
TO MAKE A PROFIT  
OFF OF THEM.

...FOR A  
TWO-DAY  
MEETING AT AN  
ENCAMPMENT  
ON THE OTHER  
SIDE OF THE  
THOUSAND  
STONESPEARS.

...ALL  
SEVEN  
OF THE  
HEROES  
HAVE  
AGREED TO  
COME TO-  
GETHER...

THE PEOPLE  
ON THIS SIDE OF  
THE BORDERLANDS  
HAVE HAD THEIR  
LIVES THROWN  
INTO TURMOIL  
BY CIVIL WAR.  
IN AN EFFORT  
TO RESTORE  
ORDER...



THE SEVEN  
HEROES...

...ARE  
ALMOST  
WITHIN  
REACH...!!!

.....  
YEAH.  
I'D SAY  
YOU  
HAVE.....

HAVE I  
SPARKED  
YOUR  
INTEREST?



...WILL BE  
JUST OVER  
THERE.....?

ALL  
SEVEN  
...



THAT'S  
PUT THE  
FIRE IN  
YOUR  
EYES.

HEE  
HEE  
...



YOU  
REALLY  
DIDN'T  
KNOW?

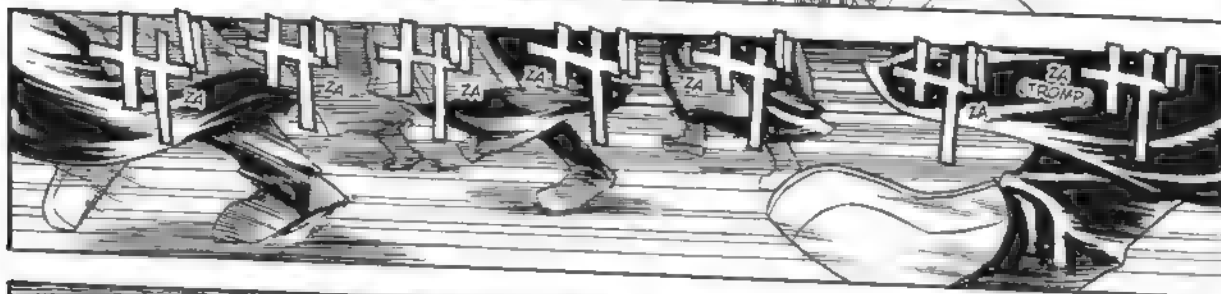


...ALMOST  
LIKE I'M  
WITH HIM  
AGAIN...

AHH...

IT'S  
ALMOST...

M M A A A H!



G-GO  
A LITTLE  
EASIER,  
PLEASE  
...

YOU'RE...  
SCARING  
ME.....

WH-  
WHAT  
IS IT  
...?

HOLD  
ON...

AH!  
HO—



WHOA!?  
ER,  
WHOOOPS.  
PARDON  
ME.

WHAT'S  
SO  
IMPOR-  
TANT!!?



YOU  
...  
DON'T  
TELL  
ME—

A  
L  
T  
E  
A!!



HUH  
!?  
WHAT'S  
THIS,  
ALL OF A  
SUDDEN  
.....?



...WHY  
NOW,  
OF ALL  
TIMES  
!!!?



WH...

THOSE  
DAMN  
WARRIOR  
MONKS ARE  
SNIFFING  
AROUND  
DOWN  
HERE!!







HEH-HEH...  
SO THE  
OWNER IS  
A WOMAN—  
AND A FINE  
ONE AT AT  
THAT...

WHERE  
IS  
YOUR  
PROOF  
!?  
  
DO YOU  
HAVE ANY  
WITNESS-  
ES?



HOW  
DARE  
YOU  
ACCUSE  
ME OF  
BEING A  
SMUG-  
GLER!?

MY SHOP  
IS JUST  
YOUR RUN-  
OF-THE-  
MILL PUB!



SURELY  
SOMEONE  
STANDING  
IN THIS  
VERY  
ROOM.

YES,  
SURELY  
SOMEONE  
HAS SEEN  
SUCH  
ACTIVITY.



PLOTTING TO  
STOW AWAY IS  
A CRIME, YES,  
BUT IT'S A  
MINOR ONE  
COMPARED  
TO THE  
SMUGGLERS'  
CRIMES.

SOMEONE  
HERE MUST  
HAVE COME IN  
HOPES OF BEING  
SMUGGLED  
ACROSS THE  
BORDER.

WHY  
NOT STEP  
FORWARD  
AND  
CONFESS?











...WOULD  
LET A  
CORRUPT  
STOWAWAY  
SLIP  
THROUGH  
MY FINGERS  
...

HEH-HEH.  
TO THINK  
THAT I,  
IN ALL MY  
WISDOM  
...

IT'S  
REGRET-  
TABLE  
BEYOND  
IMAGIN-  
ING!!



WE  
MEET  
AGAIN,  
GIRL.

E E  
K !!?



YOUR  
EXECUTION  
WILL SERVE  
AS A  
WARNING TO  
ALL...HOW  
TERRIBLY  
REGRET-  
TABLE.

REGRET-  
TABLE,  
I SAY!  
SO VERY,  
VERY  
REGRET-  
TABLE!

N  
O  
O  
O  
!!



N-  
NO.....

THE  
EXECUTIONERS  
WILL BE  
WORKING  
LATE TODAY  
INDEED.....



TRULY  
A PITY,  
BUT...  
HEH  
HEH  
...

...TRANS-  
GRESSORS  
MUST  
BE PUT  
DOWN...



FOOL-  
ISH  
CHILD...  
AND I  
ONLY  
JUST  
SPARED  
HER  
TOO.....

D  
E  
E  
P  
!!



DOGO  
(CRASH)

BATSUN  
(SLICE)





OHHH  
...?  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK  
YOU'RE—

YOU  
BASTARD...  
DO YOU  
REALIZE  
WHAT  
YOU'VE  
DONE!?

NOW...  
...HOW  
MANY  
ARE  
LEFT?



TO  
REJECT  
OUR  
AUTHOR-  
ITY...

...IS TO  
DEFY THE  
SEVEN  
HEROES  
THEM-  
SELVES!!

WE'VE BEEN  
ENTRUSTED  
WITH THE  
OPERATION  
OF THIS CITY  
BY ONE OF  
THE SEVEN  
HEROES,  
LANDGRAVE  
SCHTEM-  
WOLECH!





LIKE  
I'VE  
ALWAYS  
DONE,  
THEN.



**Durch Bruch**  
**(Break Through)**  
◆ III ◆

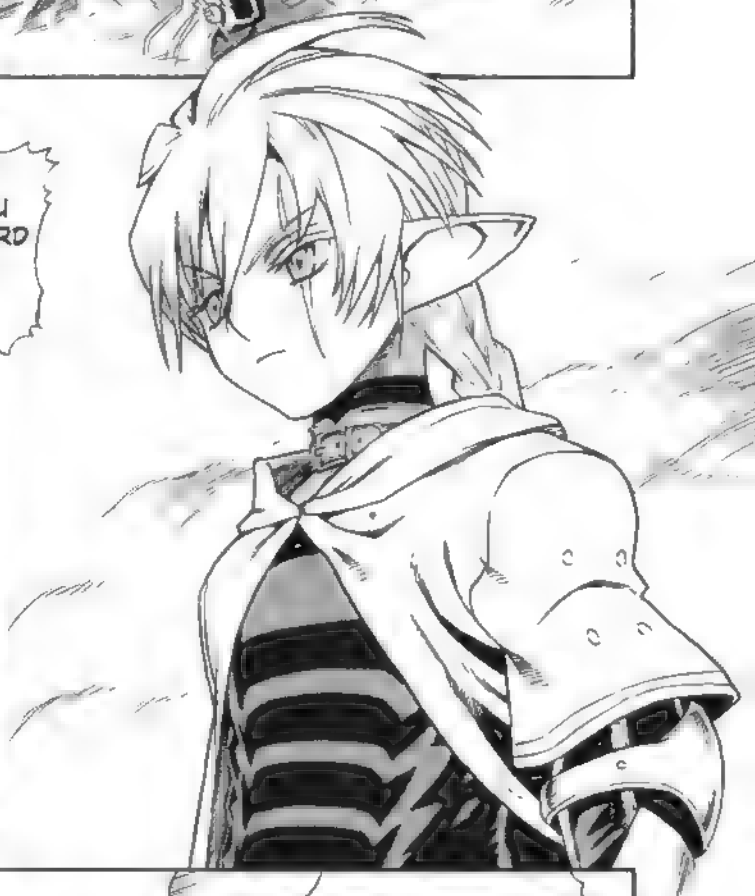


BROTHER  
RASCHEB  
SPEAKS  
FOR THEM  
HERE, SO  
OPPOSING  
HIM...

Y-YOU  
BASTARD  
...!!

THE  
SEVEN  
HEROES  
HAVE  
IMPERIAL  
AUTHOR-  
ITY OVER  
ALL THE  
LAND!!

...CAN  
ONLY BRING  
ABOUT  
A SLOW,  
PAINFUL  
DEATH FOR  
YOU!



HUH  
!?  
...UH...  
UHM...

ISN'T  
THAT  
RIGHT,  
BROTHER  
RASCHEB  
!?



HE'S MORE  
THAN A  
MATCH FOR  
A BRAT  
LIKE YOU!!

BROTHER  
RASCHEB WAS  
A MILITARY  
HERO IN THE  
GREAT WAR  
TWENTY  
YEARS AGO!!



...IT'S MOST UNFORTUNATE, BUT I'M AFRAID...

I SEE... WELL, DEKON...

...I CAN'T TARRY HERE AND DEMONSTRATE MY IMPRESSIVE SKILLS FOR YOU...



WHAT A SPLENDID FELLOW!!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME!?

Y-YOU KNOW ME WELL INDEED!!

R-RIGHT YOU ARE!!

AH...I'M DEKON.



BEAR IN MIND, DESERTION IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH!!

RATHER, I'LL GRANT YOU THE HONORED POSITION OF ANCHOR IN OUR STRATEGIC RETREAT!!

WHAT !!!



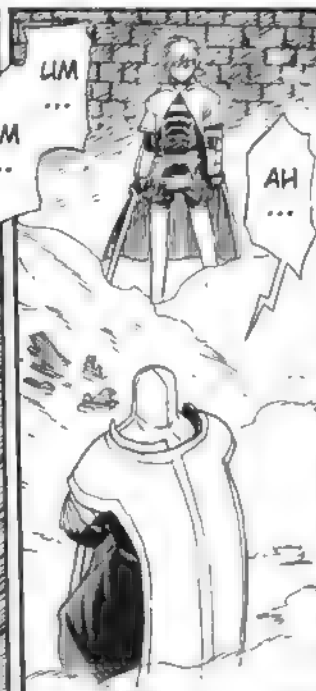
YOU LITTLE SHIT !!!

D-DIE, YOU...

UM ...

UM ...

AH ...



HOW INCREDIBLE!

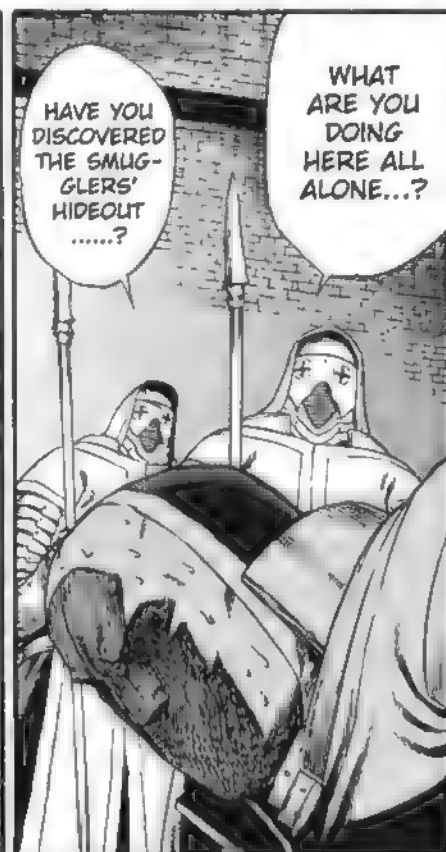
HE'S ALREADY...

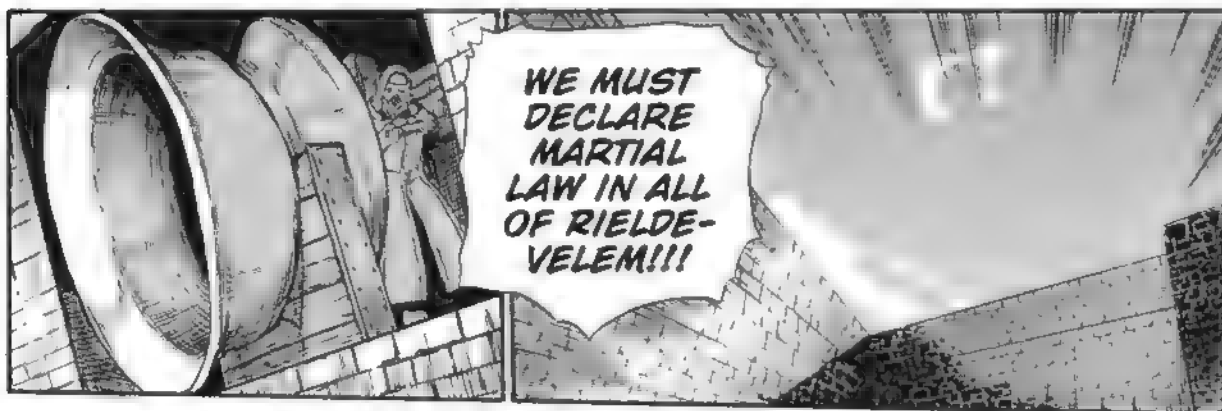
... LONG GONE ...

AHH, YES, BROTHER RASCHEB ALWAYS SUPPORTS HIS ALLIES IN BATTLE WITH HIS INFAMOUS BACKPEDAL!!















...THE  
MOONS  
ARE OUT  
TONIGHT.

...ALTEA!!

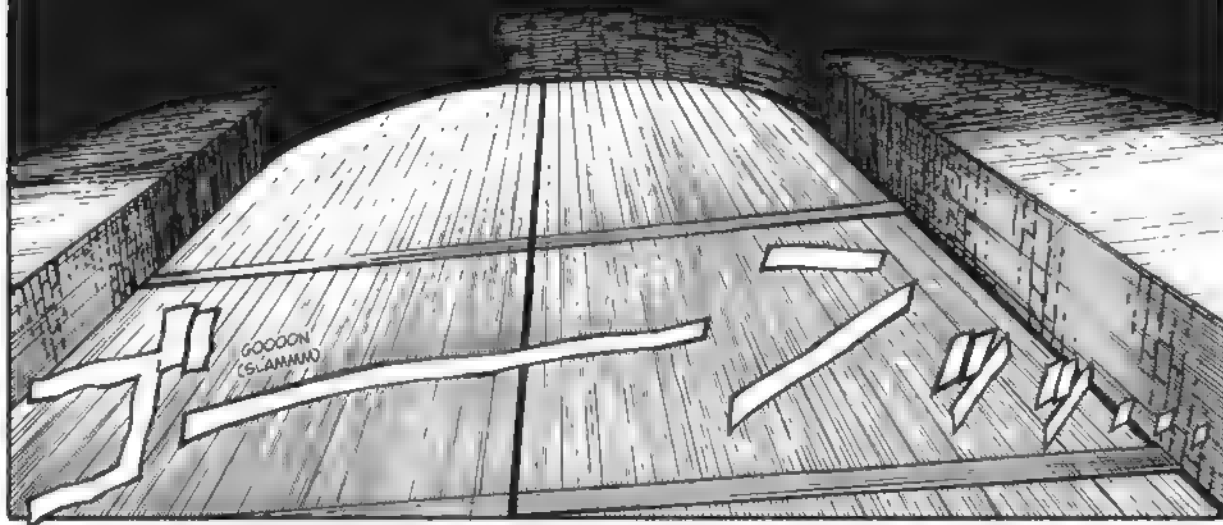
WE WILL  
MAKE IT  
TO THE  
OTHER  
SIDE!!



THOSE  
EYES OF  
HIS...!







NOW  
THAT I'VE  
SEALED  
EVERY  
ROUTE...

...IT'S  
TIME TO  
HUNT  
DOWN  
THE MICE  
PROP-  
ERLY!!

HEH-  
HEH-HEH...  
WHAT DO  
YOU SAY  
TO THAT,  
SMUG-  
GLERS...?



YOUR  
SERVICES  
ARE  
A TAD  
EXPEN-  
SIVE...

MMM...  
WELL...

AIN'T IT  
ABOUT TIME  
YOU ASKED  
FOR MY  
HELP?

THEY  
GOT YOU  
IN A PANIC,  
OLD MAN  
RASCHER.



NNGH  
...

MAYBE  
MY FEE  
AIN'T  
REALLY  
THAT  
HIGH?

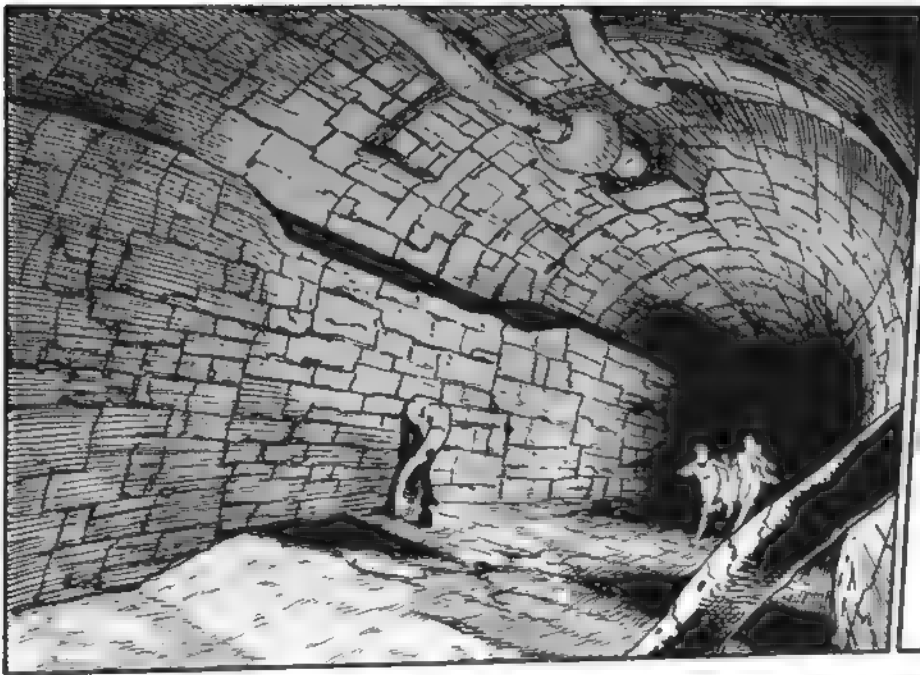
THINK  
ABOUT WHAT  
IT'LL COST  
IF YOU FAIL  
AND THE MICE  
ESCAPE.



!?  
OH, IT'S  
YOU!! AM  
I EVER  
GLAD  
TO SEE  
YOU!!

.....DON'T  
BOTHER  
GOIN' BACK.  
THEY'LL  
BE LONG  
GONE.





PRETTY  
PA-  
THETIC.

WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
KÖIN-  
ZELL?  
SLOWING  
DOWN AL-  
READY?



HFF!  
HFF!  
HFF!

HFF!  
HFF!



THAT'S  
BECAUSE THIS  
SPACE IS USUALLY  
SEALED OFF  
FROM THE REST  
OF THE UNDER-  
GROUND.....

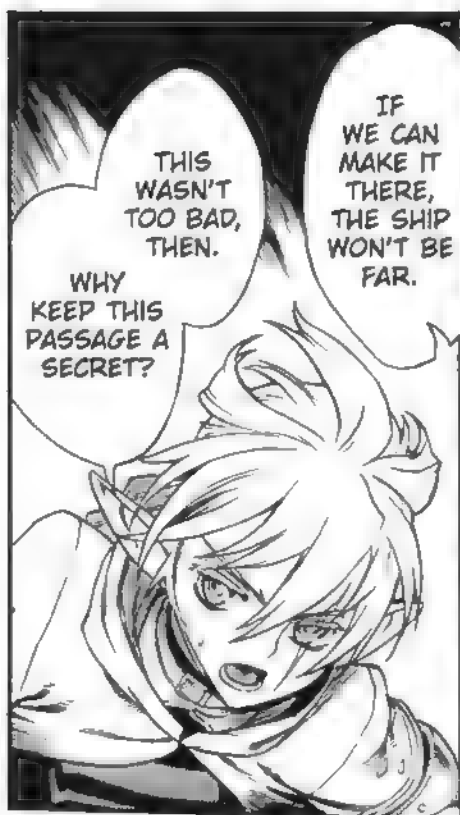
...THE ALSO  
AIR IN HERE  
REEKS  
...!



I HATE  
IT WHEN  
I CAN'T  
SEE THE  
SKY!







THIS  
WASN'T  
TOO BAD,  
THEN.

WHY  
KEEP THIS  
PASSAGE A  
SECRET?

IF  
WE CAN  
MAKE IT  
THERE,  
THE SHIP  
WON'T BE  
FAR.



THERE  
SHOULD BE  
AN ATRIUM  
JUST UP  
AHEAD.

IT'S  
CON-  
NECTED  
TO THE  
PORT'S  
UNDER-  
GROUND  
STORAGE  
AREA.



ZA  
GKSHO



WELL,  
YOU  
SEE...



!!?







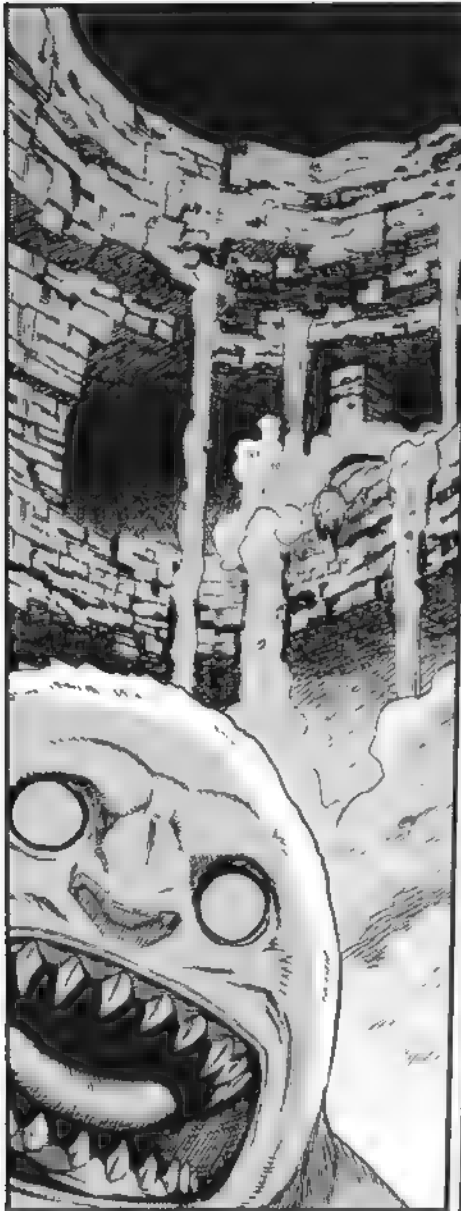














**N000-  
0000-  
000!!!**



**DAM-  
MIT!!**

**...THAT  
NOISE  
...**

**AAAAH!**

**I  
KNEW  
IT...**

**WE'RE  
DONE  
FOR!!**

**IT'S  
ALREADY  
MADE  
IT THIS  
FAR.....!!**

**PULL  
YOUR-  
SELF  
TO-  
GETHER,  
ALTEA!!**







**Durch Bruch  
(Break Through)**

◆ IV ◆

WH-  
WH-  
WH....!

GYA-  
AAA-  
AAA-  
AAH  
!!!?

WHAT  
IS  
THAT  
!!!?
















I HAD  
HOPED  
KÖINZELL  
WOULD  
DELIVER,  
BUT  
WITH HIM  
GONE...

...BREAKING  
THROUGH  
THIS GUY  
AND  
REACHING  
THE PORT  
IS IMPOS-  
SIBLE!!

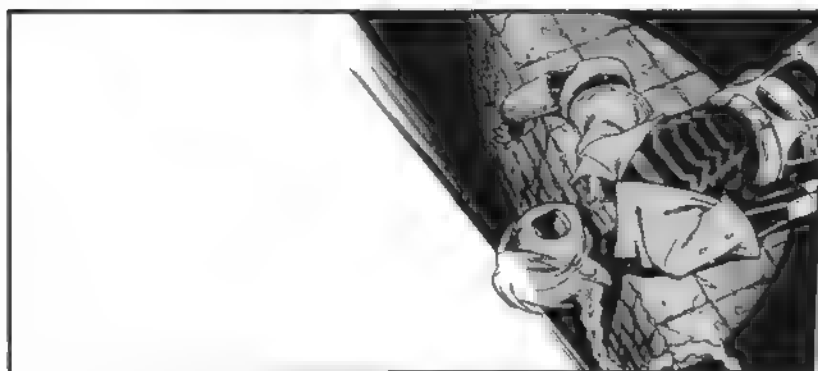
THE  
OPERA-  
TION  
HAS  
FAILED  
!!!





...EVERY  
ONE OF  
US!!!

HE'S  
GOING TO  
KILL...



THAT...



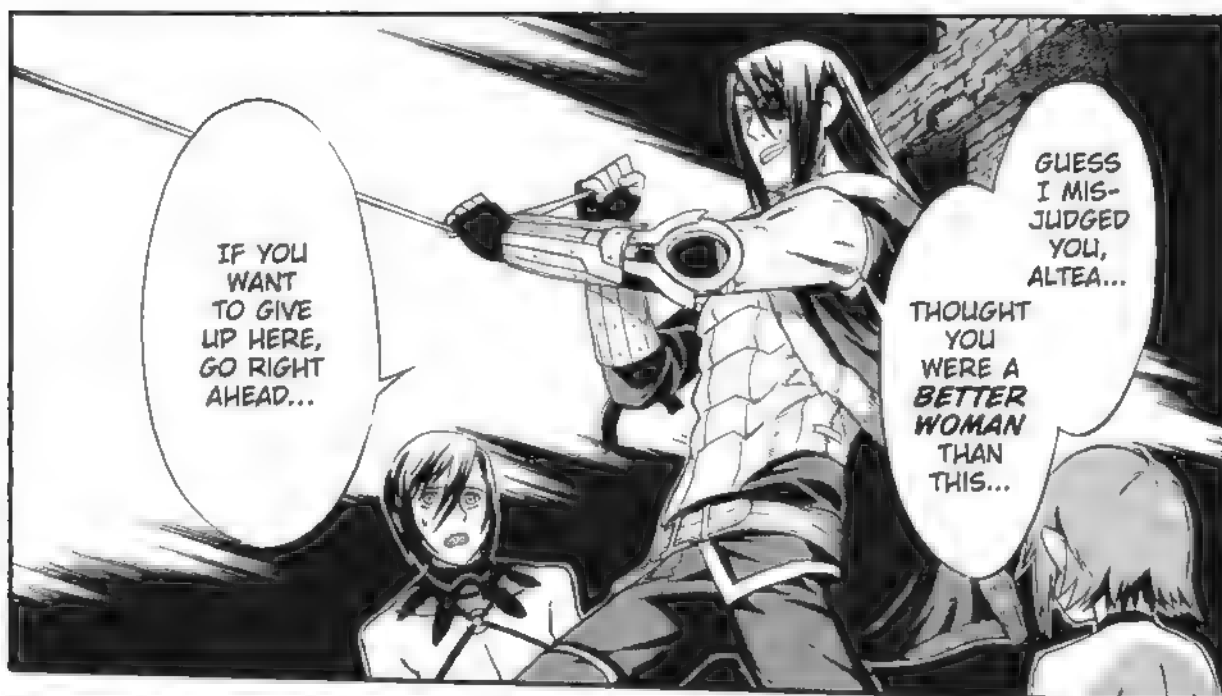
THAT  
CAN'T  
HAD-  
PEN!!





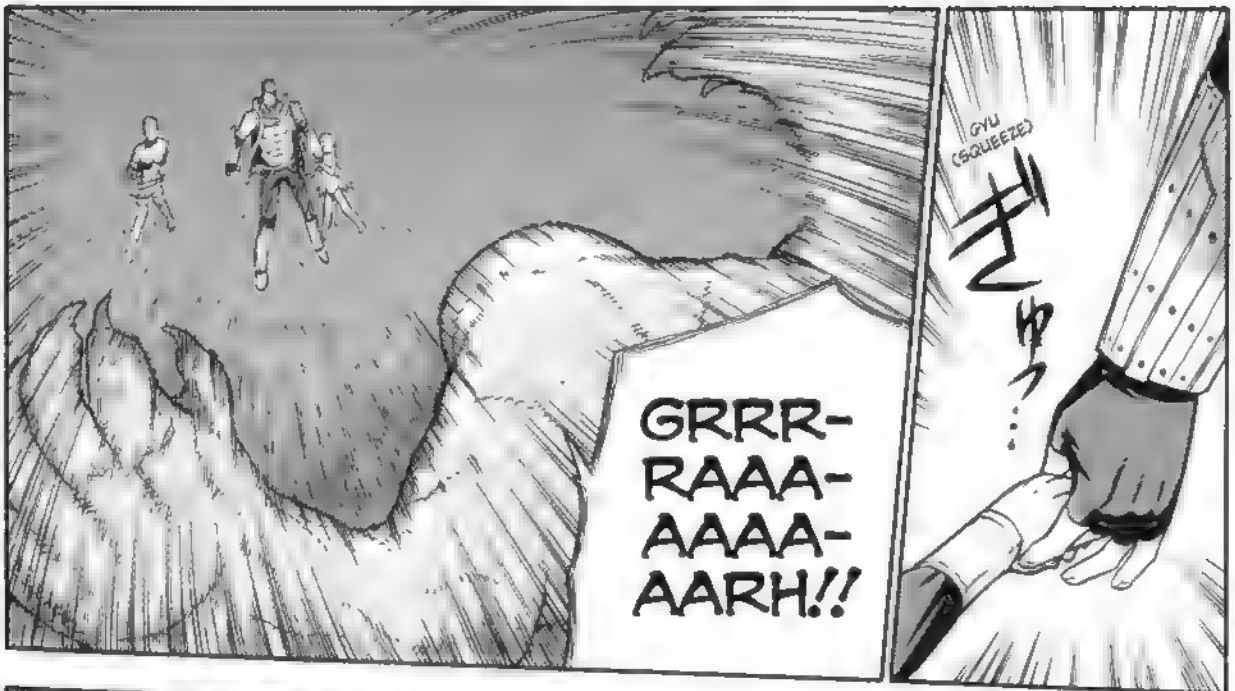


























GAH  
HAH!



IT'S  
PASSED  
BY...!!!



THE  
SHIP...



AHH...  
SHIT...!!!















THE  
MOONS  
...

...ARE SO  
LOVELY  
TONIGHT.



NYAA-  
GYAA-  
AAAA-  
ARRR-  
RGH!!!









WE  
MEET  
AGAIN,  
YOU  
GUTTER  
RATS.

HAAH-  
HA-HA-  
HA-HA-  
HA-HA-  
HA-HA-  
HA-HA-  
HA!!!

ZUZUZUZUZUZU  
O-SSSSHHHH



AND  
YOU...

I AM  
CHIEF  
WARRIOR  
MONK  
RASCHEB  
!!!

...ARE  
DEAD  
!!!

GO GO GO GO GO GO GO GO  
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ  
GO (CRAMBLE)





...WHAT  
KIND OF  
ATTACK  
WAS  
THAT!?

WH...

.....



THAT  
MON-  
STER'S  
BODY...

...WAS  
COMPLETELY  
DESTROYED  
...!!

**Durch Bruch**  
**(Break Through)**

◆ V ◆



HA-  
HA-HA-HA!  
WITNESS THE  
MIGHT OF  
THE SPELL-  
SWORD!!!

THE SAME  
SWIFT, WEIGHTY  
JUSTICE WILL BE  
FELT BY ALL OF  
THE CORRUPT  
ENEMIES OF THE  
MONASTERY!!



WHAT'S  
THAT  
VOICE  
...!?



"SPELL-  
SWORD"  
....!?









.....



YOU WOULD  
BE WISE TO  
FOLLOW HIS  
EXAMPLE  
AND REFORM  
YOURSELVES!!

WHAT  
FOOL-  
ISH-  
NESS!!  
  
YOU, THE  
FAITHLESS  
ONES WHO  
WOULD  
SNATCH AWAY  
MONEY MEANT  
FOR THE  
MONASTERY...

...ARE THE  
ONES WHO  
SHOULD BE  
ASHAMED!!



ENOUGH  
OF THIS  
POINTLESS  
PRATTLE.

NOW,  
THEN.



WHY,  
YOU...!!



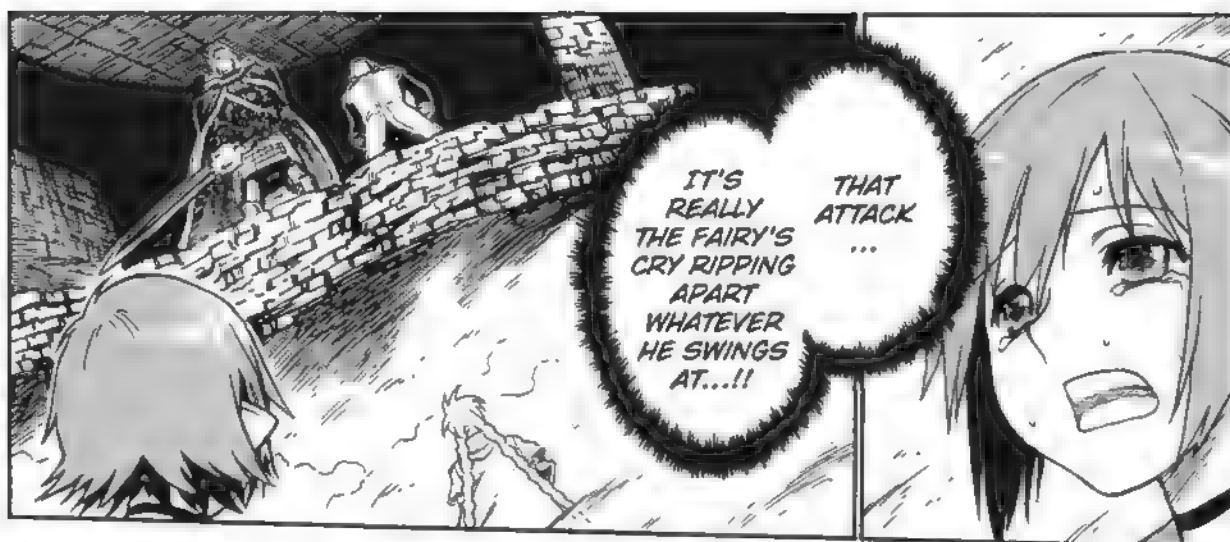
















THERE ARE  
NO MORE  
WALLS TO  
SHIELD YOU  
FROM THE  
BLOWS THIS  
TIME...



WHAT  
...!!?

MY  
WORK  
HERE IS  
FIN-  
ISHED.

WHY  
DID YOU  
SHEATHE  
YOUR  
SWORD  
!!?

...!?  
WHA  
...?



AIN'T  
THAT  
ENOUGH?

THEY'LL  
NEVER  
REACH  
THE SHIP  
IN TIME  
ANYWAY.

BUT  
WHY?  
AFTER  
COMING  
THIS  
FAR!!?

HE  
DEFLECTED  
MY ATTACK  
BY CUTTING  
IT WITH  
HIS OWN  
BLADE...!!

THIS FOOL  
COULDN'T  
SEE IT...

...BUT  
THAT  
KID...



GRN  
H!!!?

...IT'LL  
COST  
YOU  
EXTRA.



ONE  
MORE  
ATTACK  
WOULD  
FINISH  
THEM!!  
COME  
BACK  
AND—

IF YOU WANT  
ME TO TAKE  
THIS ANY  
FURTHER.....



AAGH!!

THE  
RATS  
ARE  
GET-  
TING  
AWAY!!

P-  
PLEASE,  
WAIT...!!

I'M  
LEAV-  
ING.

...CAN'T  
YOU  
JUST  
.....?

WON'T  
YOU  
SIMPLY—

WE'RE  
DONE  
HERE.

...BUT  
YOU'RE  
ALREADY  
SO EX-  
PENSIVE.



HAPPY  
TO BE OF  
SERVICE!!

HURRY  
!!!

F-FINE,  
THEN!!  
I'LL  
PAY YOU  
WHAT-  
EVER YOU  
WANT!  
JUST ONE  
MORE  
ATTACK!







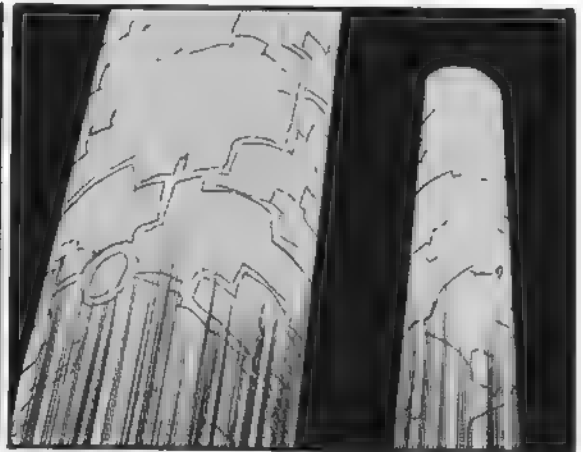
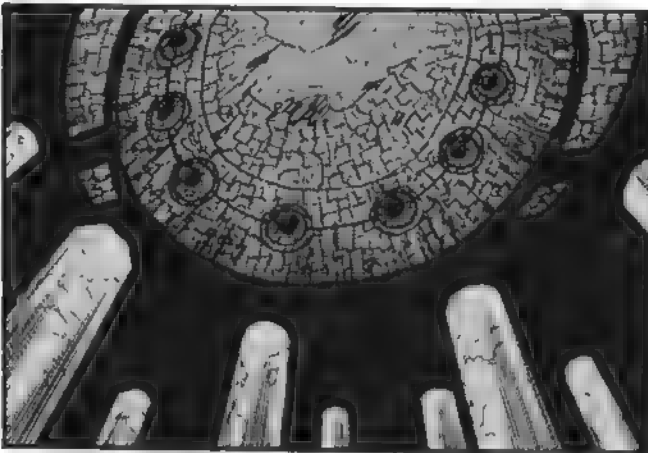
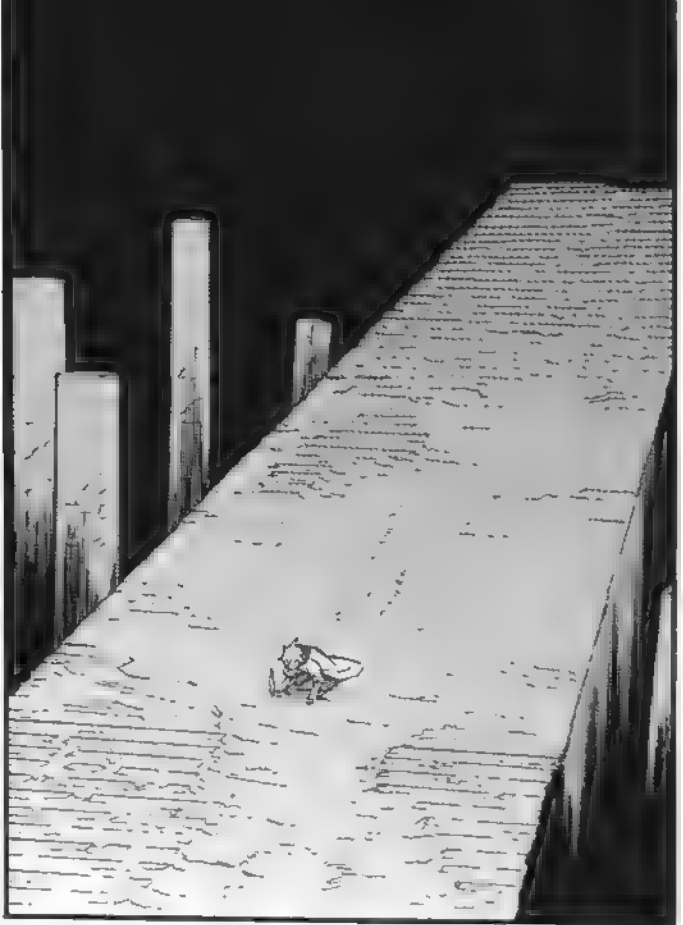




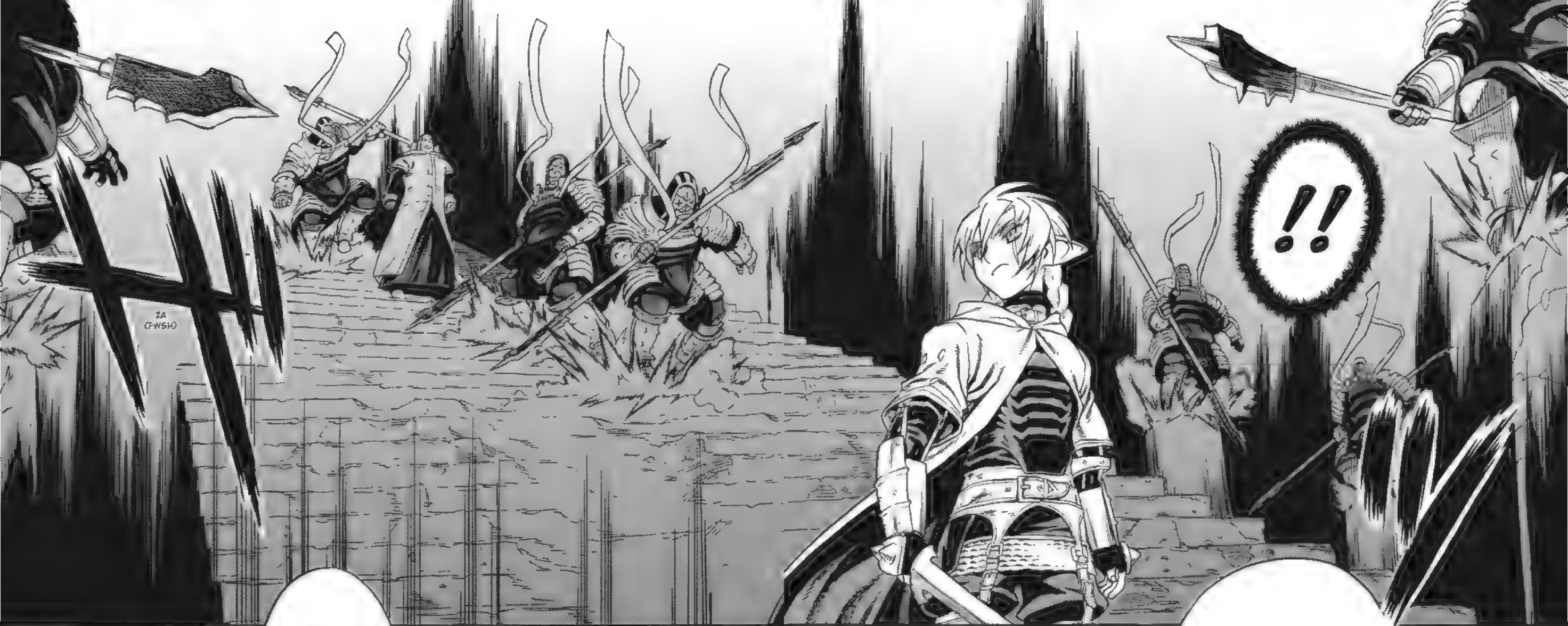












A PLACE  
GUARDED  
BY MY  
STRONGEST  
MEN:

**THE HOLY  
GUARDIAN  
BROTHER-  
HOOD!!!**

...IS THE  
DEEPEST  
PART OF THE  
MONASTERY  
ITSELF!!!

THIS PLACE,  
IN WHICH  
I HAVE SO  
CLEVERLY  
CORNERED  
YOU...



SENDING THE  
MONASTERY'S  
MOST ELITE  
FIGHTING FORCE  
AGAINST YOU  
IS BEYOND  
REGRETTABLE...

...A  
FEEBLE BOY  
FIGHTING ALL  
ALONE WITH  
THE SOURCE  
OF HIS  
STRENGTH SO  
FAR AWAY...  
VERSUS  
YOU...



**VERY  
REGRET-  
TABLE!!!**

VERY!

VERY!

...BUT  
YOU'VE  
MADE  
A FOOL  
OF ME  
AND LEFT  
ME NO  
CHOICE!!  
EVEN  
THOUGH  
PICKING  
ON THE  
WEAK IS  
SO...







THE  
RITUAL IS  
COMPLETE!!

I CAN  
HANDLE  
THIS ON  
MY OWN.

IT IS  
TIME  
FOR YOU  
TO GO,  
ASCHER-  
IIT!



BUT...



NOW  
LEAVE.

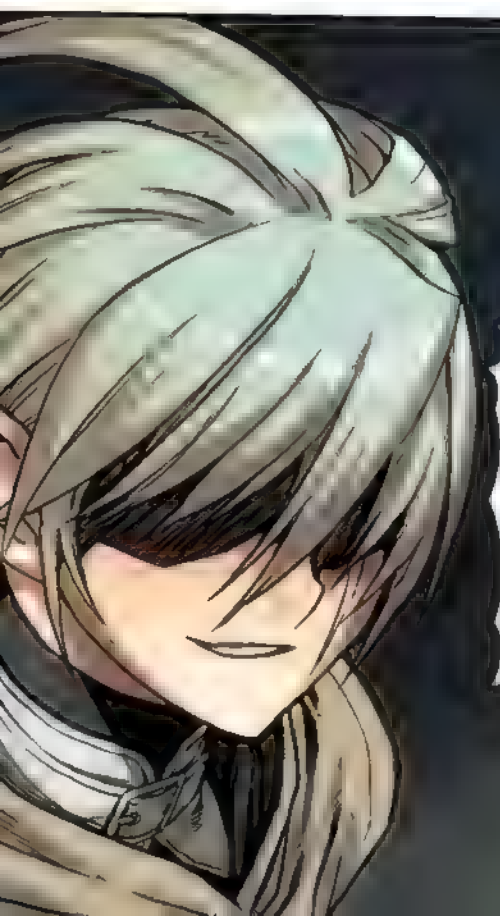
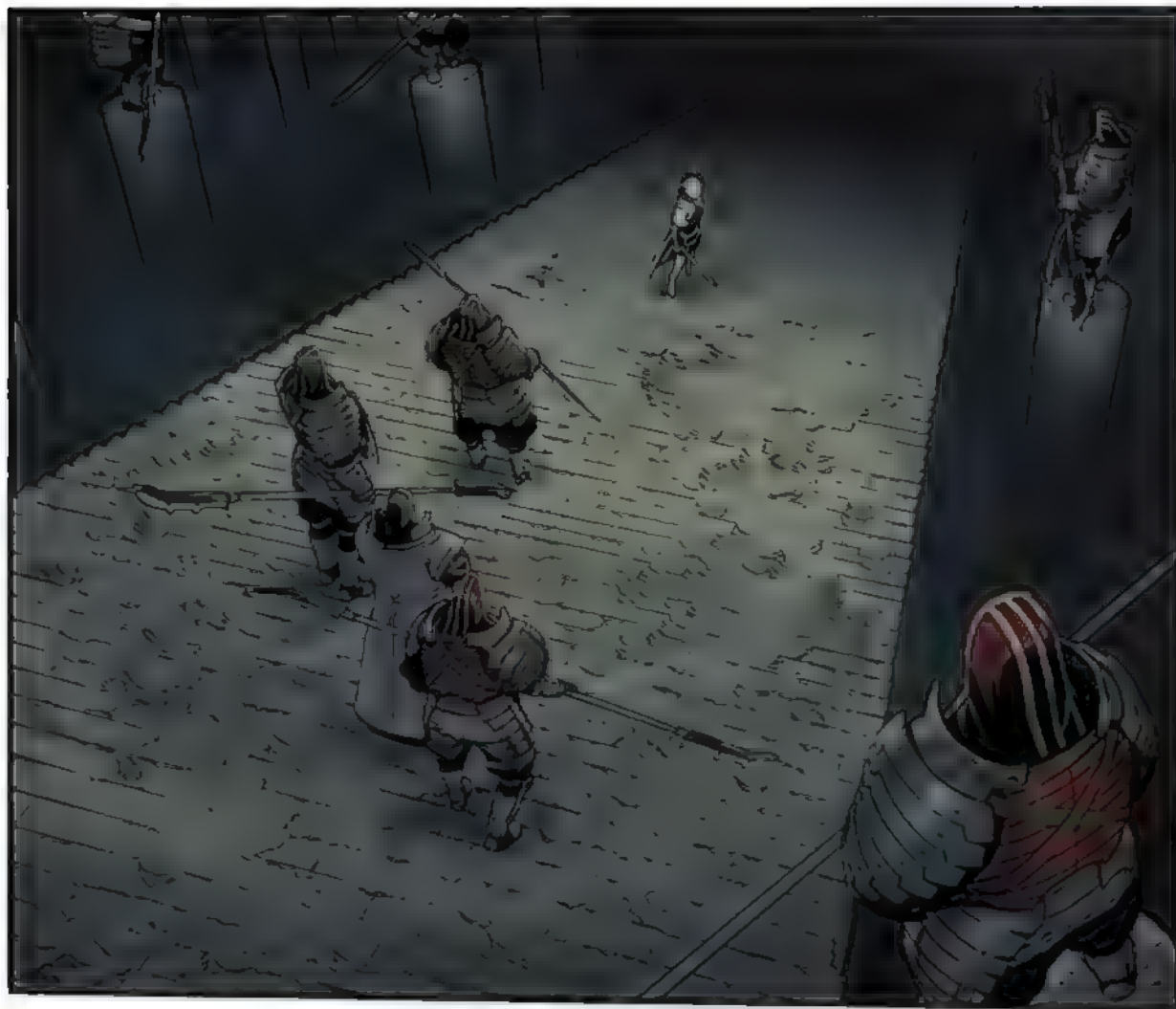
REJOIN THE  
OTHERS AND  
CARRY OUT  
THE MISSION,  
ASCHERIT!!

DO NOT  
WEEP...

THAT  
ISN'T AN  
EXPRESSION  
BEFITTING  
THE EMPIRE'S  
GREATEST  
SWORDS-  
MAN.







NOW,  
MY ELITE  
WARRIORS  
!!

FORM UP  
AND CUT  
HIM TO  
PIECES!!

LET'S  
GIVE HIM AN  
EXTRAVAGANT  
SEND-OFF—  
A PARTING  
GIFT TO MARK  
THE END OF HIS  
PITIFULLY  
SHORT LIFE...





Durch Bruch  
(Break Through)  
◇VI◇











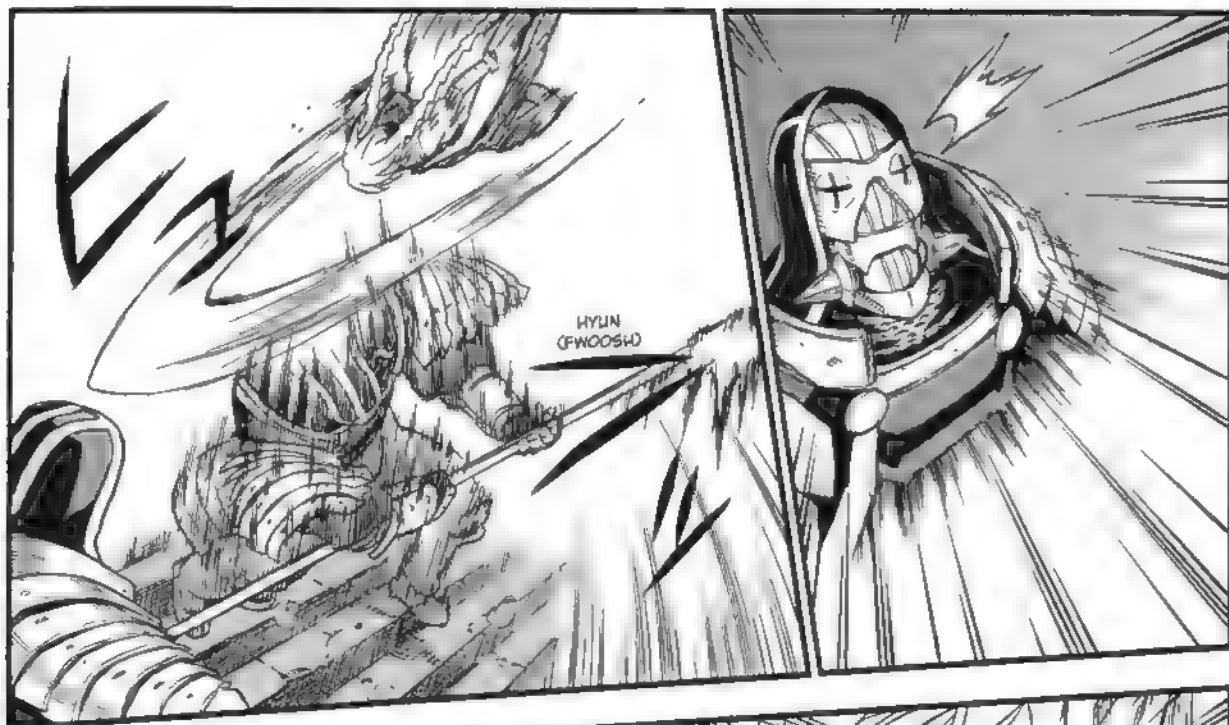
YOU'VE  
GOT QUITE  
AN ARM,  
PEEPI.

NO  
MORE!!













HOW DID  
HE MOVE  
LIKE THAT  
...?

THIS IS NO  
ORDINARY  
KID.....!!

CHIEF!!  
JUST  
WHO IS  
THIS  
BRAT!?



MAKES  
SENSE.

I SUPPOSE  
YOU'D NEED  
SOME MARGIN  
OF SKILL TO  
BE CALLED  
"ELITES."



TCH...

OR IS  
THE ELITE  
KOMMANDO  
AFRAID OF  
ONE LITTLE  
BOY!?



CHARGE!!!

DON'T  
HOLD  
BACK!  
HE'S NO  
MERE  
CHILD!



I...  
I THOUGHT  
YOU FELLOWS  
MIGHT BE  
BORED, SO  
I BROUGHT  
A PLAYMATE  
FOR YOU...

REGARD-  
LESS!  
HURRY  
UP AND  
DESTROY  
HIM FOR  
ME!!



JYAF  
(FWID)



GA

GA

GA

GA

GA  
(CLANG)



YOUR  
TALENTS  
ARE WASTED  
HERE, HIDING  
IN THE DARK  
LIKE MOLES.

TAN  
(LEAP)

NICE  
COORDI-  
NATION!!

BYUO  
(FWOOSH)



HOW-  
EVER...



I'M  
ALMOST  
IM-  
PRESSED  
...!!



...NOR  
DO I  
HAVE  
THE  
TIME.

I'M SORRY  
TO SAY, I  
HAVEN'T  
RECOVERED  
ENOUGH OF MY  
STRENGTH TO  
BE SUITABLE  
ENTERTAIN-  
MENT...



OHH  
!?



Y-Y-YOUR  
OPPONENTS  
ARE BACK  
THERE,  
REMEMBER?

Y-YOU  
CAN'T  
COME  
UP  
HERE!



H-HOLD  
IT RIGHT  
THERE.....



UP AHEAD  
IS CON-  
SECATED  
GROUND...

HEY!!!  
SOME-  
ONE  
STOP  
HIM!!!

STAY  
BACK!!

STAY  
BACK,  
I SAY!!



OH NO!!  
THE  
CHIEF'S IN  
TROUBLE!!!



STOP  
!!

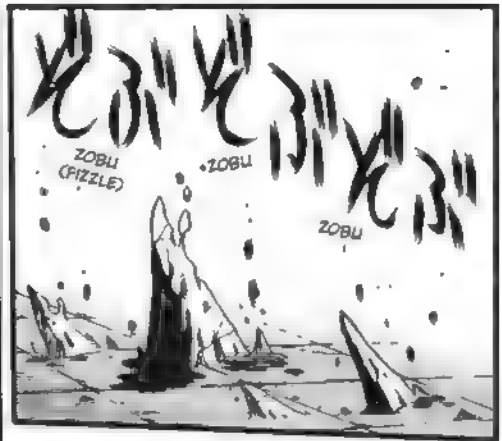
STOP,  
YOU  
BRAT!!















**HOW  
!!!?**



**HOW  
WOULD  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT A  
TRAP HERE  
THAT EVEN  
I WAS  
UNAWARE  
OF!?**

**HOW  
DID  
YOU  
...?**

**BUT...  
HOW...?**



**YES...**

**AND  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
VERRRY  
INTERESTING  
BEYOND THAT  
DOOR.....**

**!!!**



**I ONCE  
PASSED  
THROUGH  
HERE A  
LONG TIME  
AGO.**

**I KNOW  
THIS  
PLACE  
WELL.**





WHO ARE  
YOU...?

THIS  
PLACE...

ONLY THE  
HIGHEST-  
RANKING  
BROTHERS  
ARE  
PERMITTED  
TO ENTER  
THIS  
SPACE.

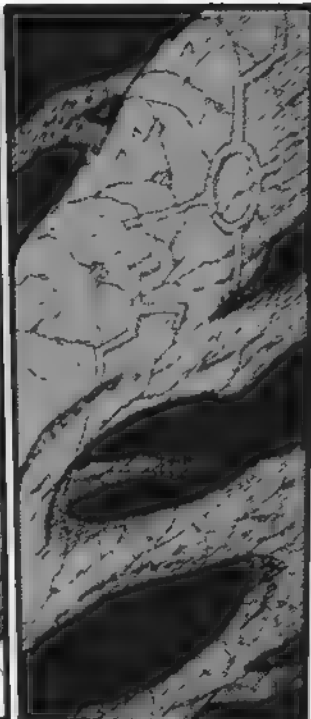
IT IS OUR  
HOLIEST  
GROUND.



HEY!

NOT EVEN  
THE SEVEN  
HEROES  
THEM-  
SELVES...

...ARE  
ALLOWED  
TO SET  
FOOT HERE  
WITHOUT  
PERMIS-  
SION...



THIS IS  
AN ALTAR  
TO SAINT  
ERGNACH,  
ATTENDANT  
TO THE  
SEVEN  
HEROES.

LISTEN  
HERE,  
BOY...



...CREATED  
THE THOUSAND  
STONESPEARS  
WITH A MAGIC  
RITUAL, AND—

...ERGNACH,  
WHO ARRIVED  
HERE WITH  
THE SEVEN  
HEROES...

...IN THEIR  
EFFORTS  
TO COUNTER  
A MASSIVE  
OFFENSIVE  
FROM WISCH-  
TECH...

TWENTY-  
THREE  
YEARS  
AGO...





**SHUT  
UP!!!**



.....

DO YOU  
RECOGNIZE  
ME,  
ERGNACH?



...AND THEY  
CALL YOU AN  
"ATTENDANT"  
TO THOSE  
SEVEN.

**WHAT  
A BAD  
JOKE!!**

.....HEAR  
THAT,  
ERGNACH?

YOU  
GAVE YOUR  
LIFE TO  
PERFORM  
THIS  
RITUAL...





J...  
...JUST  
SOME  
WOULD-  
BE  
STOW-  
AWAY,  
ABBOT...

RASCHEB,  
WHO IS  
THAT BOY!?



THIS SORT  
OF FAILURE IS  
QUITE OUT OF  
CHARACTER,  
RASCHEB.

AH...  
I'M SO  
SORRY,  
I...

.....  
ANOTHER  
ONE OF  
THOSE  
"HERO  
KIDS," I  
SUSPECT  
.....

HE'S  
TRYING  
TO REACH  
THE SEVEN  
HEROES'  
ENCAMPMENT  
ON THE  
OTHER  
SIDE...



THAT'S  
...!

SEE  
HERE,  
BOY!

YOU  
AREN'T  
ALLOWED  
OVER  
THERE!



TA  
(TMP)

!!



*Durch Bruch*  
*(Break Through)*  
◆VII◆





...I SAW THE YOUNG, VALIANT SEVEN HEROES WITH MY OWN EYES.

...ON THIS VERY GROUND— THEN A BATTLE-FIELD...

TWENTY-THREE YEARS AGO...



NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, HERO KID...



.....



THE ABBOT, IN HIS ABUNDANT BENEVOLENCE, IS SPEAKING TO YOU!

HEY!  
ARE YOU LISTENING, BOY!!?



ALONG WITH SEVEN COMPANIONS, THEY MADE FOR THE FOREST OF DEATH...

THE SEVEN HEROES WERE DISPATCHED BY HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR.



...WERE  
THOSE  
INFAMOUS  
TRAITORS,  
THE DREADFUL  
"TRAITOROUS  
LANCES."

SADLY,  
AMONG  
THEM...

ALTHOUGH  
PART OF THE  
ORIGINAL PARTY,  
THOSE FOUR  
SIDED WITH  
WISCHTECH AND  
WERE SLAIN BY  
THE HEROES  
FOR THEIR  
CRIME.....



THEY PUT  
THEIR LIVES  
ON THE LINE  
TO PERFORM  
A RITUAL THAT  
WOULD ERECT  
A MASSIVE  
WALL!!

THE SEVEN  
HEROES, SENSING  
THAT WISCHTECH  
WOULD LAUNCH AN  
INVASION HERE,  
COULD NOT LEAVE  
THIS PLACE TO THE  
MERCY OF INVADING  
FORCES!!

BUT I  
DIGRESS  
!!



YOU  
CAN'T BE  
SERIOUS,  
ERG-  
NACH!!!



TAKING A  
RISK LIKE  
THIS IS.....



IT'S LIKE  
GLENN  
SAYS!!



WE'VE NO TIME  
TO WORRY  
ABOUT SOME  
WORTHLESS  
SLUM. WE  
MUST PRESS  
ONWARD!!



O-OUR  
TASK IS TO  
CARRY OUT THE  
MISSION GIVEN  
TO US BY HIS  
MAJESTY...



DON'T  
WORRY,  
SCHTEM-  
WÖLECH.

WE'LL CATCH  
UP TO YOU  
GUYS SOON  
ENOUGH.

...WE  
MADE A  
PROMISE,  
AFTER  
ALL...



A  
S  
C  
H  
E  
R  
I  
T  
!!



THE REST  
OF YOU  
SHOULD  
MOVE ON.



...ERGNACH  
AND I WILL  
TAKE CARE  
OF IT.



THE  
FOURTEEN  
OF US...

...WILL  
FULFILL  
THIS  
MISSION.

WE WILL  
SURVIVE.  
AND  
TOGETHER,  
WE WILL...



...THE  
THOUSAND  
STONESPEARS  
APPEARED  
.....!!!

AND  
THAT  
WAS  
WHEN  
...



BUT  
WHEN I  
WITNESSED  
THE  
MAJESTY  
OF THAT  
SPECTA-  
CLE...

...I SAW  
IN IT THE  
TRUTH  
OF ALL  
THINGS....!!

I WAS  
A SIMPLE,  
LOWLY  
MERCHANT  
AT THE  
TIME...



MY  
ACTIONS  
WERE PRAISED  
THROUGHOUT  
THE REGION,  
AND I WAS  
AWARDED  
CONTROL OF  
THIS BORDER...

...BY NONE  
OTHER THAN  
LANDGRAVE  
SCHTEM-  
WÖLECH,  
ONE OF  
THE SEVEN  
HEROES.

AS  
SUCH...



I FOUNDED  
THIS  
MONASTERY  
SO THAT I  
MIGHT SPREAD  
THIS TRUTH  
TO THE  
MASSES...

...AND  
HAVE SINCE  
PROTECTED  
THIS  
HOLIEST OF  
HOLY RITUAL  
SITES...



SO  
SCHTEM-  
WÖLECH...  
IS A  
LAND-  
GRAVE...

HEH-HEH-  
HEH-HEH-  
HEH-HEH



!?



HA...





...AFTER  
HAVING  
BEEN  
AWAY FOR  
TWENTY  
YEARS...

WHEN  
I FIRST  
HEARD  
OF IT...

EH,  
ERG-  
NACH?

THAT OUR  
SCHTEM-  
WOLECH  
WOULD  
BECOME  
A LAND-  
GRAVE?

PRETTY  
FUNNY,  
ISN'T  
IT...?



...I  
COULDN'T  
HELP BUT  
LAUGH...



HE WAS  
ECSTATIC.

"C'N YOU  
BELIEVE IT?  
A MOUNTAIN  
BANDIT LIKE  
ME SENT ON  
A MISSION BY  
THE EMPEROR  
HIMSELF?"

I STILL  
REMEMBER  
WHAT HE  
SAID WHEN  
WE SET  
OUT.

I BET  
HE WAS  
THRILLED  
...





KEER.

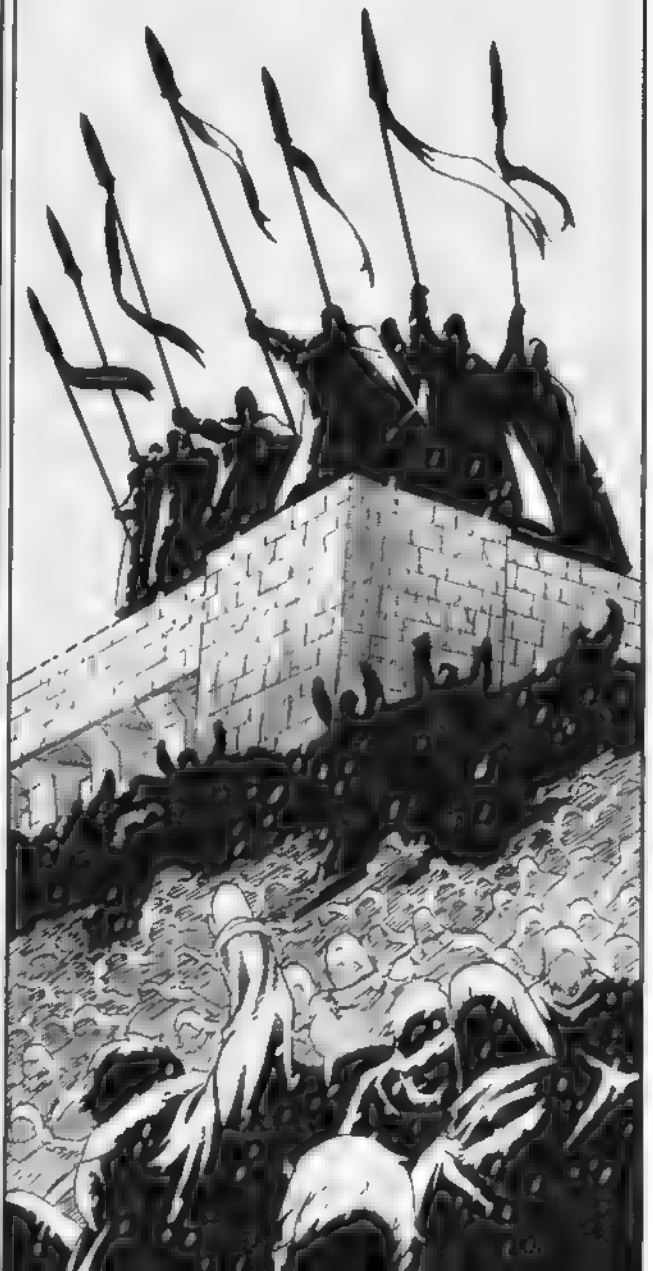
KRENTEL.

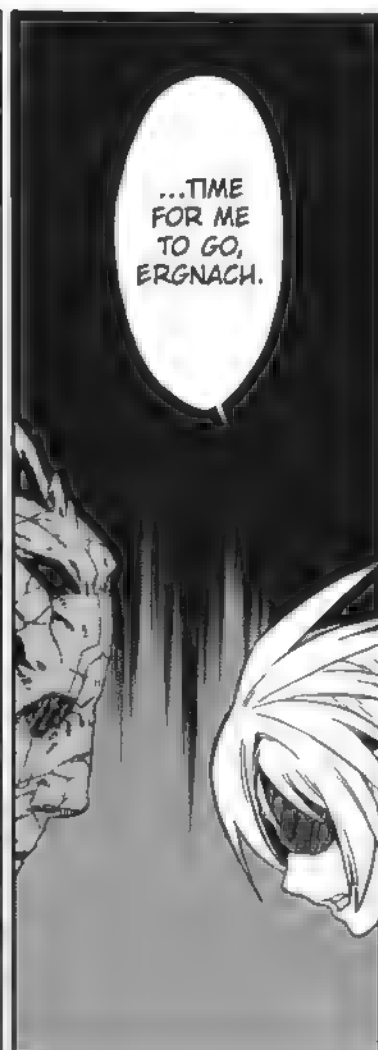
GÜSSTAV.

AND  
ME. THEY  
STAINED  
THEM-  
SELVES  
RED WITH  
OUR  
BLOOD...

AND...

...THEY  
LAUGHED  
LIKE MEN  
GONE  
MAD...!!









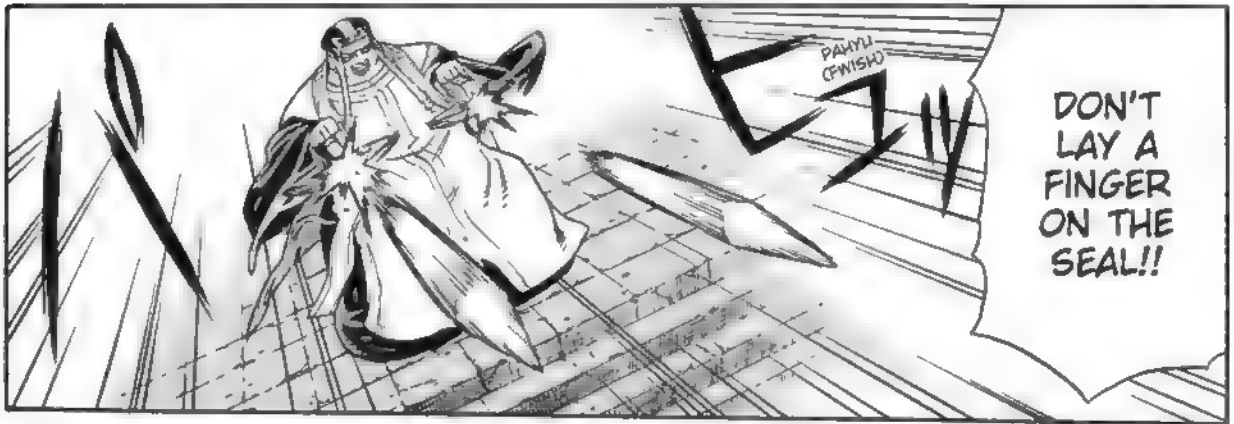


**RASCHEB,  
YOU WORM!  
I TOLD YOU  
TO KILL  
THAT VILE  
BRAT THIS  
INSTANT!!!**



**OH  
NO!!!**

**I ORDER YOU  
TO DO WHATEVER  
IT TAKES TO STOP  
HIM! WHY CAN'T  
YOU MANAGE  
EVEN THAT, YOU  
HALF-WIT!! YOU  
WRETCHED—**



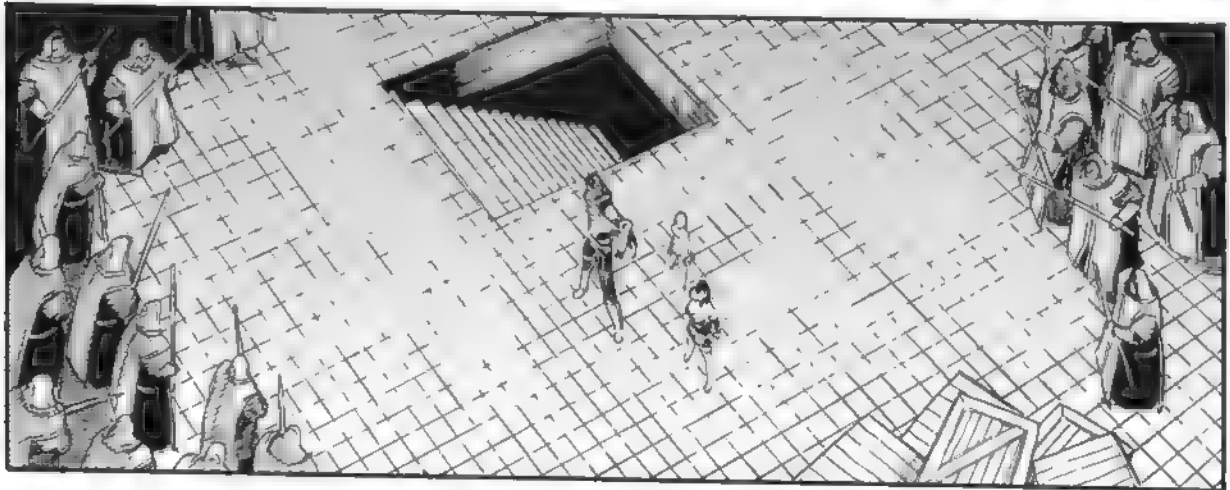








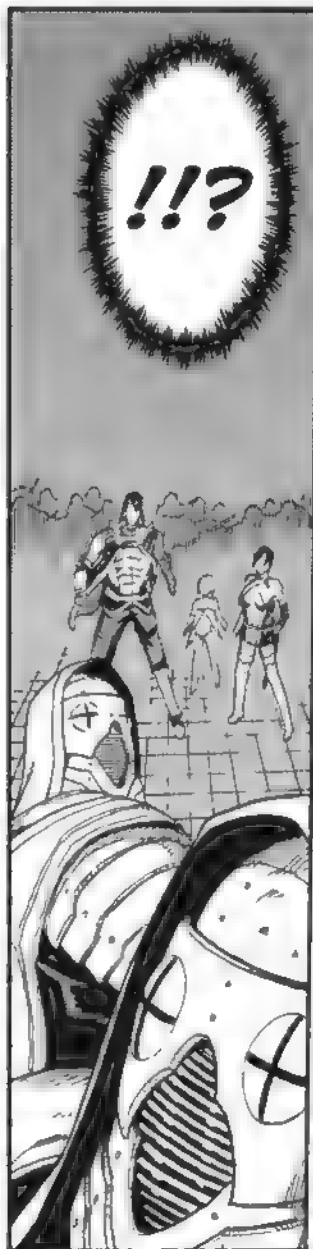
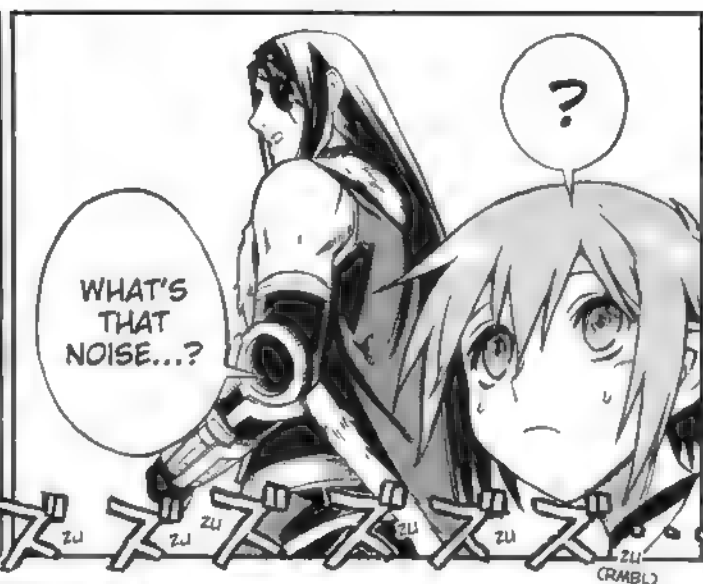
SHIT...  
WE'RE  
TOO  
LATE...!!

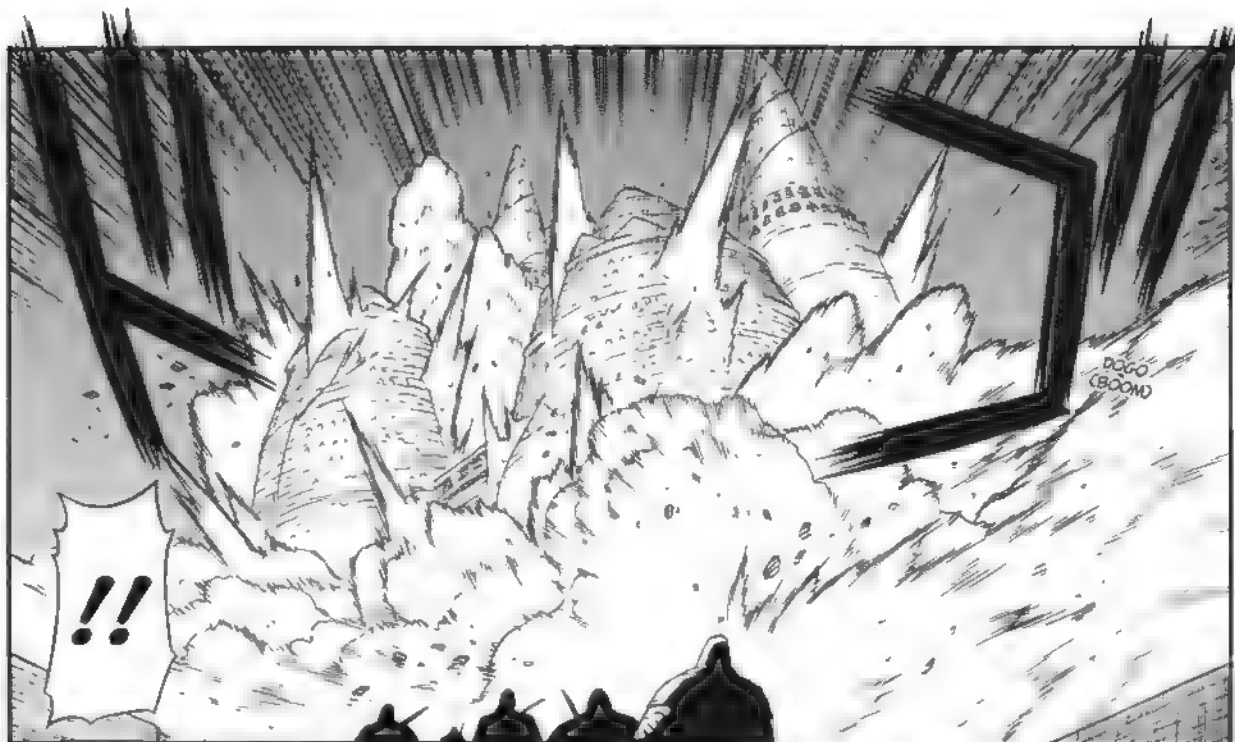


SCHA-  
REN.....  
FORGIVE  
ME...



...!!





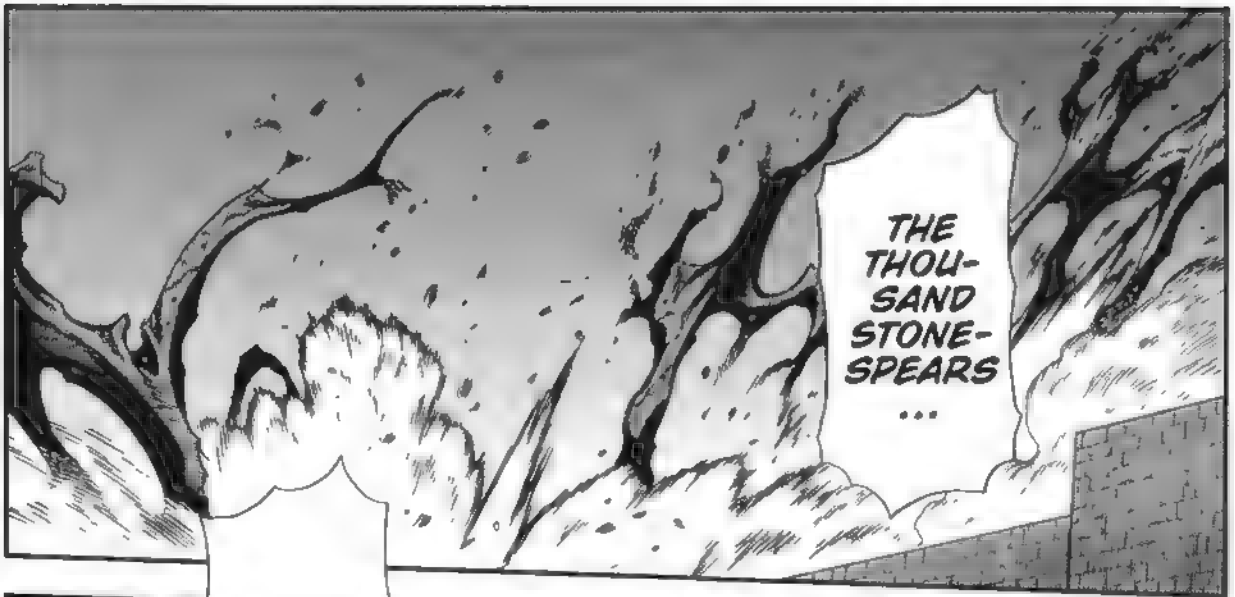




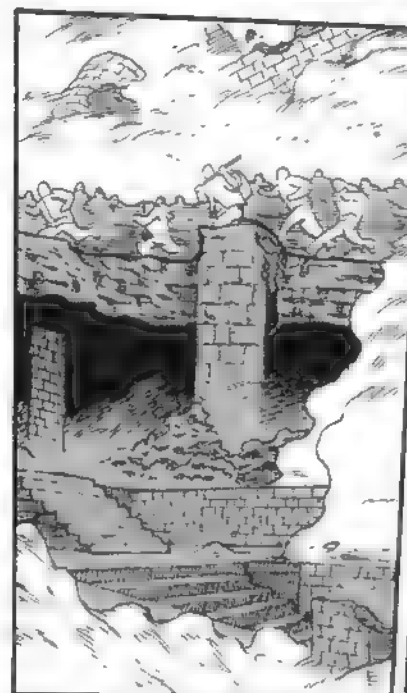
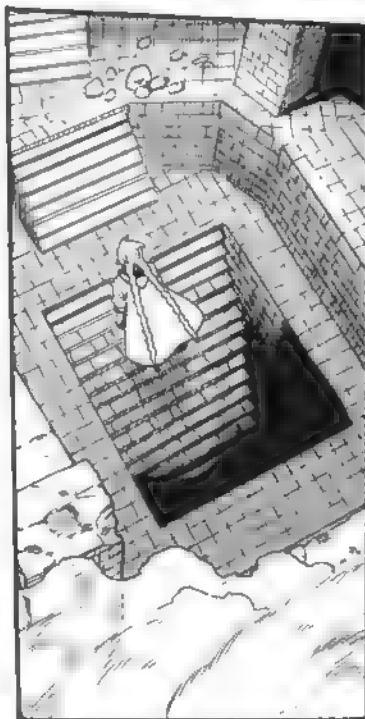








# Durch Bruch (Break Through) ♦ VIII ♦









EVERY  
TIME IT IS  
RECLAIMED  
BY ONE  
SIDE OR THE  
OTHER...

...THE  
NUMBER  
OF MAGICAL  
TRAPS  
WITHIN IN-  
CREASES.

WE'VE  
BATTLED WITH  
WISCHTECH  
OVER THIS  
UNDERGROUND  
FORTRESS  
COUNTLESS  
TIMES.



KEEP THE  
ENEMY  
AT BAY?

GOT  
IT.

PRE-  
PARING  
FOR THE  
RITUAL  
WILL  
TAKE A  
WHILE.

IN THE  
MEAN-  
TIME—



BY  
ACTIVAT-  
ING THAT  
SOURCE...

...WE CAN  
CREATE A  
WALL THAT  
WILL HALT  
THE ENEMY'S  
ADVANCE...

THE POWER  
SOURCE FOR  
ALL OF THEM  
LIES AT THE  
DEEPEST  
PART OF THE  
BASE.



...YOU CAN  
REJOIN THE  
OTHERS.

IF YOU  
ARE ABLE  
TO MAKE  
YOUR  
WAY BACK  
OUT...



REMEMBER  
THIS  
ROUTE WELL,  
ASCHER! IT.





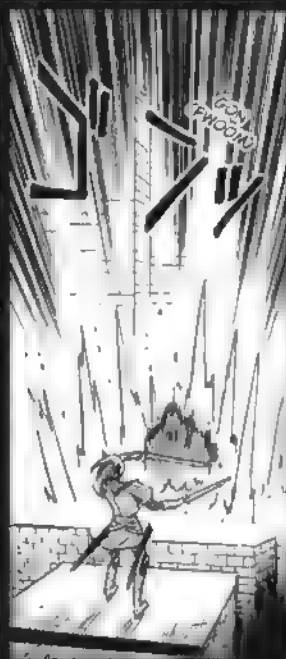
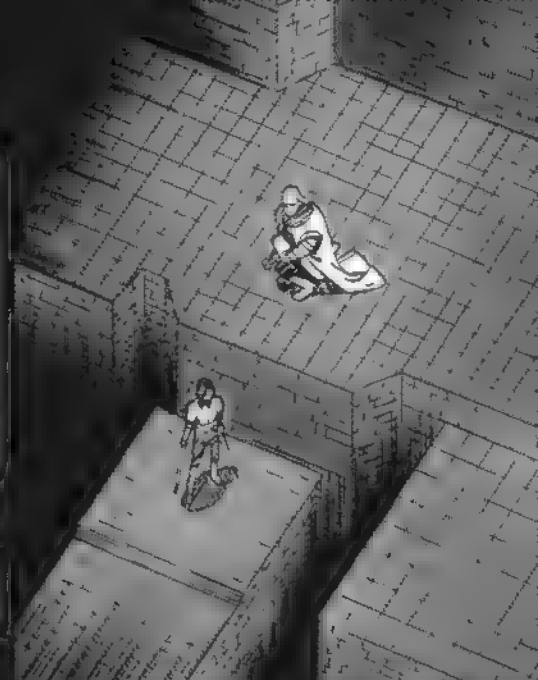
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING  
...!?



SHOULD  
I SUCCEED  
HERE...

I AM  
PRE-  
PARED.

...IT IS  
LIKELY THAT  
I WILL BE  
BOUND TO  
THIS SPOT.



GOING  
DOWN



...BE  
WAITING  
RIGHT  
HERE.

I'LL...



...BUT THE  
THIRTEEN OF  
YOU MUST  
COMPLETE  
YOUR  
MISSION...

I'M  
SORRY  
THAT WE  
CANNOT  
CARRY ON  
TOGETH-  
ER...



ERGNACH!!!

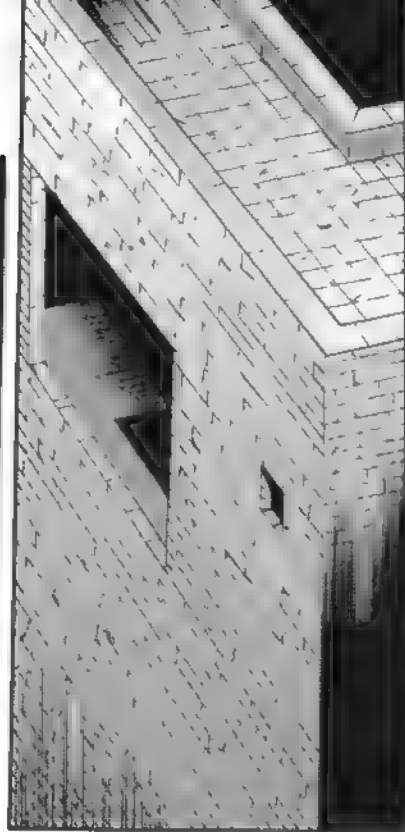
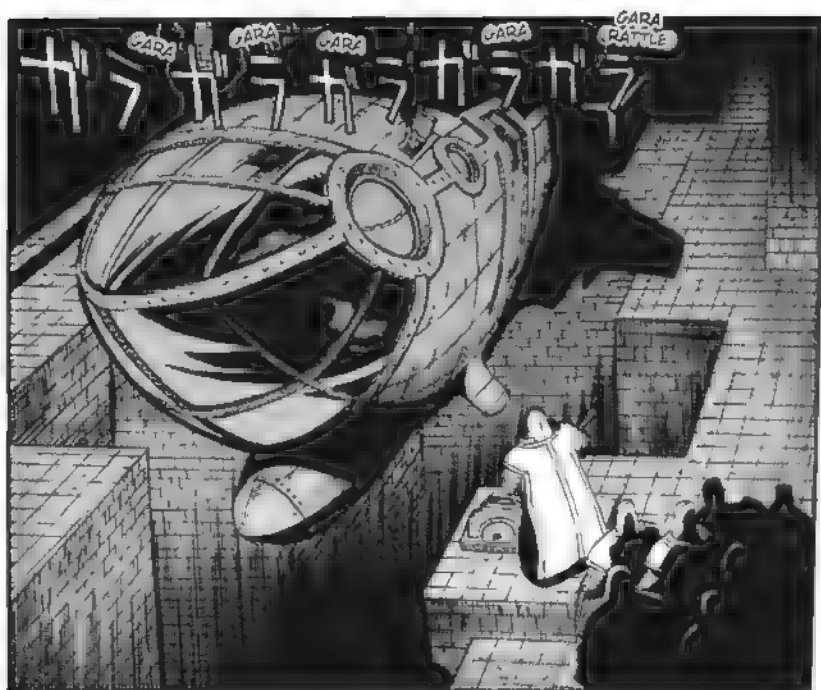


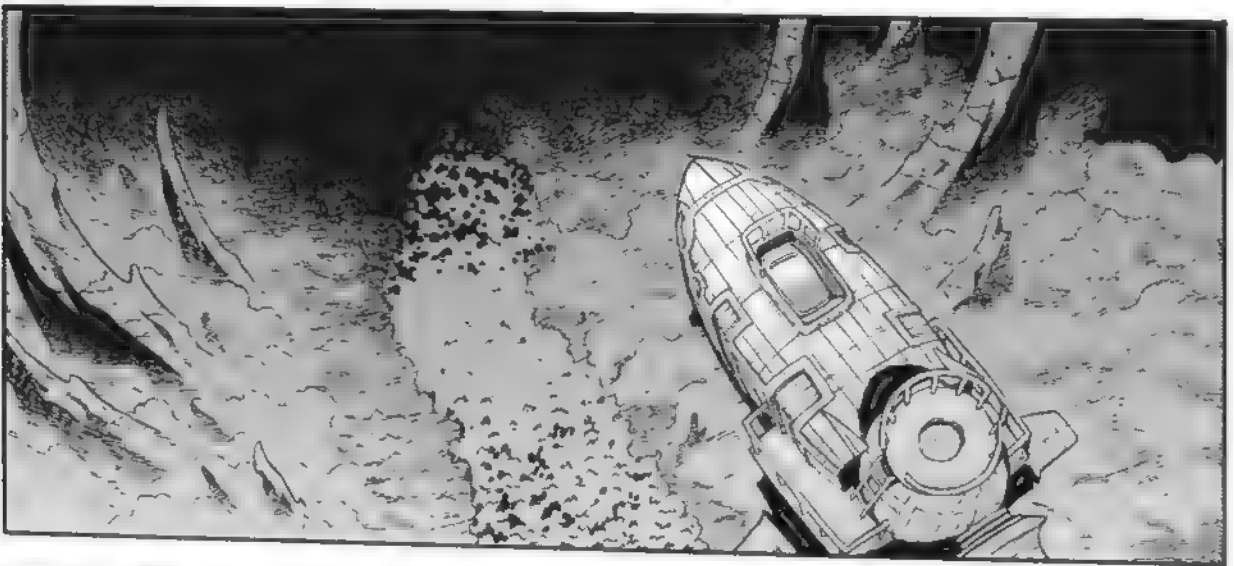


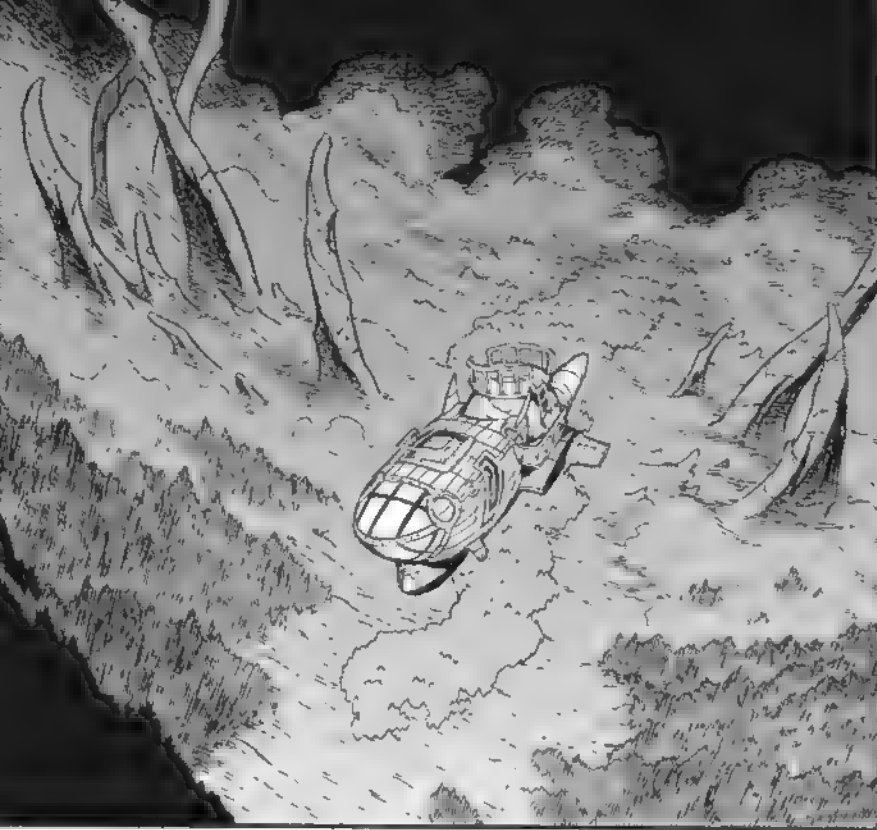








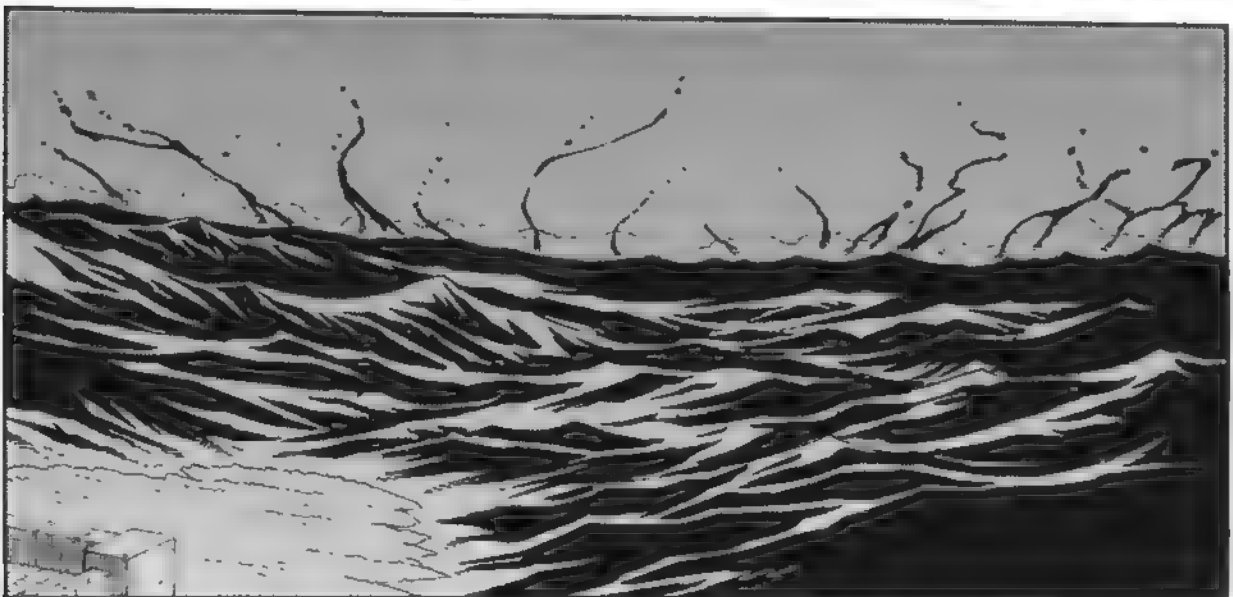






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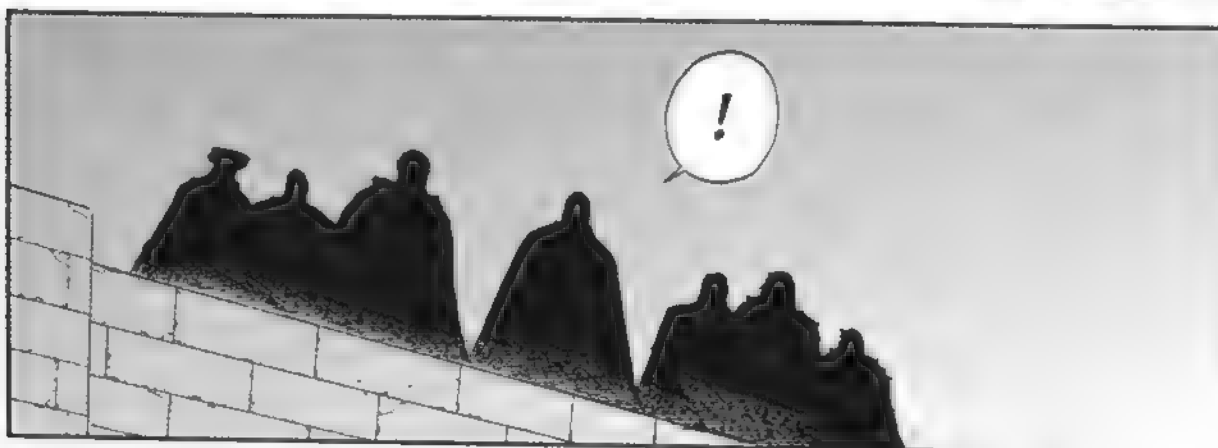






















# BORDER CITY RIELDE-VELEM

A city that lies directly on the border between Mollan—the easternmost landgravate of the Seven Heroes' domains (collectively known as Heldenstrasse)—and the margravate of Gormbark.

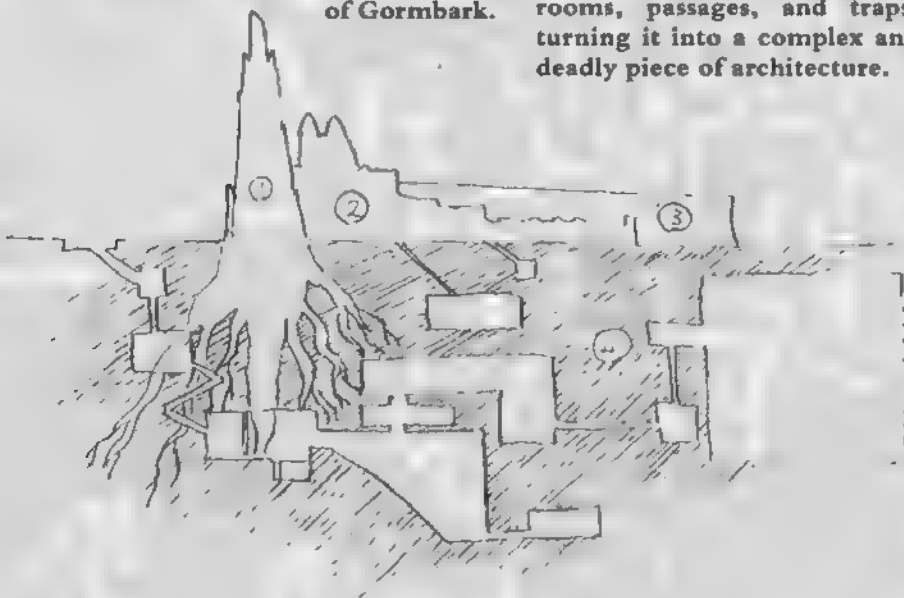
The underground fortress was originally constructed by Wischtech during the war, but it was captured and retaken from the forces of the empire several times throughout the fighting.

Each subsequent capture and withdrawal brought on the construction of additional rooms, passages, and traps, turning it into a complex and deadly piece of architecture.

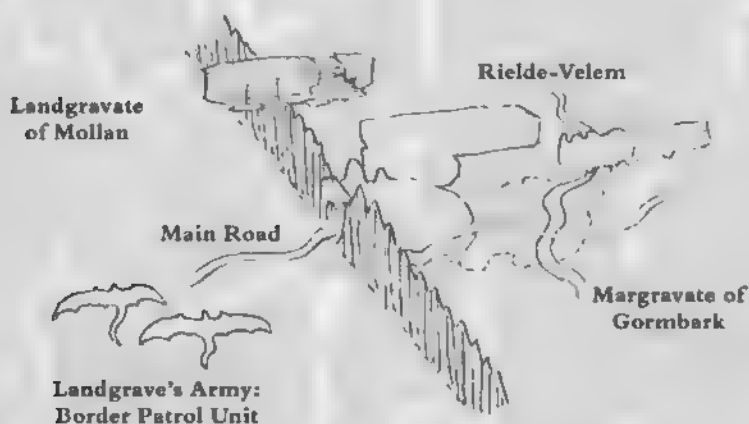
In 3969 A.D., Ergnach—military strategist and disciple of Blatt Meister Ludift—created the Thousand Stonespears, halting the impending invasion from Wischtech.

After the great war, Rielde-Velem developed into a full-fledged border city, partly in thanks to the monastery.

The underground was initially sealed off once the fighting ended, but people from the borderlands began moving in on their own and eventually established an independent society in the space beneath the city proper.



- ① Thousand Stonespears
- ② Monastery
- ③ Maschinendrache Port
- ④ Underground City (formerly the underground fortress)



## MONASTERY

After witnessing the birth of the Thousand Stonespears and thinking himself awakened to the truth of all things, a certain merchant founded the monastery and began attracting followers in 3970 A.D.

He was given control of the border by Landgrave Schtemwölech in 3979 A.D., at which point he began strengthening his organization of warrior monks and expanding development of the city itself.

The monastery gained untold financial and political influence through the border tax it collected, but in 3992 A.D. it was completely annihilated along with the Thousand Stonespears.



# Translation Notes

## Title:

*Übel Blatt* translates to “evil/sinister blade” in German.

## Page 20:

The original Japanese designates this world’s calendar literally as “the year of the sacred gift,” referring to the point in time when the gods granted Szaalenden to the people in year zero. Our own A.D. stands for *anno domini* (“the year of our Lord”), but in *Übel Blatt* the “D” stands for *donatio*, or “gift” in Latin, to reflect the gods’ giving of Szaalenden.

## Page 80:

The Japanese characters used for *Mondenbürgen* (“moon castles” in German) translate literally as “Moon Reading Palace.” This fits with the astral prognosticating that is apparently performed there.

## Page 100:

The German term that Gústav uses, *Hoch Elfe*, as well as the characters used to spell it out in the Japanese edition, means “High Elf.” The distinction between “fairy” and “elf” is not made—the broad term used in Japanese (*yousei*) covers both.

## Page 109:

*Blatt Meister* translates to Blade Master in German.

*Liebeblatt*



# ÜBEL BLATT 0

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Etorouji Shiono

**Translation: Caleb D. Cook • Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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